



Election Brings Ray of Hope to Battered Algeria

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

ALGIERS — As a muezzin's afternoon call to prayers rang through the cobbled alleyways of Algiers's Casbah, Mouloud Takdjout settled into a comfortable niche in the old city wall and watched fellow Muslims hurry past.

A cigarette dangling from his mouth, the 50-year-old "wall man," the nickname Algerians give to their millions of unemployed, tapped his foot to the merric beat of a Berber pop song playing on his transistor radio and talked of an Algeria that may at last be emerging from a nightmare.

"Everything has an end, including this, and we are within sight of the finish," he said, referring to the savage war between Algeria's military rulers and Islamic guerrilla groups that has taken at least 80,000

lives since it began in 1992. The strife erupted after the shadowy group of generals who hold real power in this nation of 26 million canceled a second round of elections that were on the verge of securing a parliamentary majority for a militant Islamic party.

The Casbah, a maze of streets in the old Turkish quarter of Algiers, became for most people almost completely off-limits, its traditional vitality dulled by the lurking presence of Islamic guerrillas, who used it as a base to mount bombings, ambushes and assassinations, terrorizing Algerians as their allies outside the capital terrorized much of the rest of the country.

In many cases, the dead were civilian women and children, sometimes babies only a few months old. Often the killers cut victims' throats, burned them alive, gouged out their eyes, or hacked them to pieces.

Few foreigners ventured into the legendary Cas-

bah, even with the posse of armed bodyguards that are every visitor's inseparable shadows.

Rumors of government complicity in the violence abounded, but, despite promises, the generals never allowed international human rights groups to investigate the allegations.

Now, to the surprise of many Algerians, the situation has eased. A presidential election, scheduled for April 15, has come alive, with 11 candidates representing an array of political opinions, and a promise from the army not to rig the ballot, as it has in the past.

The group of generals who control the government, known to French-speaking Algerians as "Le Pouvoir" (The Power), reached a cease-fire pact in autumn 1997 with the Islamic Salvation Army, the

See ALGERIA, Page 13

Beijing Hardens On Missile Shield

Foreign Minister Also Disputes U.S. Nuclear Espionage Report

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — China continued its campaign Sunday against proposals in the United States to place parts of Asia, including Taiwan, under an American anti-missile umbrella, warning that such a move would block China's hopes of reuniting peacefully with Taiwan.

Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan also denied a published report in the United States that China had stolen U.S. technology that allowed it to miniaturize its nuclear weapons — a major leap forward in nuclear weapons technology.



Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan at a briefing in Beijing on Sunday.

"If some people intend to include Taiwan under theater missile defense, that would amount to an encroachment on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and also be an obstruction to the great cause of peaceful reunification of the motherland," Mr. Tang said.

Mr. Tang's remarks constituted the strongest public reaction to date concerning the consequences of providing Taiwan with anti-missile technology. The remarks are part of a Chinese campaign to put the Clinton administration on notice that it will not tolerate the deployment of an anti-missile system in Asia. On Friday, a senior Chinese official said the provision of anti-missile technology to Taiwan would be the "last straw" in U.S.-China relations.

The campaign comes at a time when no firm decisions have been made in the United States about the anti-missile system, known as Theater Missile Defense, or TMD. China appears to have decided to let its voice be heard on this issue in an attempt to convince the United States that deploying such a system would create more problems than it would solve.

Mr. Tang stressed that China was opposed to providing the anti-missile technology to both Taiwan and Japan, with whom the United States has maintained a close security relationship.

"The development and research of TMD does not go with the trend of the times, nor is it conducive to international disarmament efforts," Mr. Tang said. "It will also exert a negative impact on the global and regional strategic balance and stability into the next century."

Mr. Tang also suggested that the system would conflict with Tokyo's constitutional pledge to maintain only defensive military capabilities.

The recent Chinese barrage of statements against the missile shield indicates that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright failed in her recent trip to Beijing to clear up what her aides said were misunderstandings in China about U.S. plans. The statements also underscore a widening gap between Beijing and Washington's interests in Asia — differences that Clinton administration officials have sought to paper over but that have been emphasized by China.

The clash is a traditional one: between an entrenched power, the United States, and a resurgent one, China. Chinese officials have become increas-

ingly outspoken in recent months about their opposition to U.S. military deployments in Asia and their objection to the alliances maintained by the United States with several Asian nations: Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Mrs. Albright said last week that China should stop worrying about "a decision that has not been made to deploy defensive technologies that do not yet exist" and should do more to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. She was referring to North Korea, which U.S. officials worry is trying to build a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Tang said fears about North Korea were "greatly exaggerated."

Mr. Tang also brushed aside a Pentagon report that said China had bolstered its missile force facing Taiwan. Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has refused to rule out an invasion if Taiwan declares independence. "Whether we should deploy missiles on our own territory is our own business," he said.

The foreign minister also criticized as "very irresponsible" a report Saturday in The New York Times that China stole U.S. technology to produce small nuclear warheads.

The report said China obtained the technology from the U.S. Energy Department's weapons lab in Los Alamos. Mr. Tang said the report was part of a campaign in the United States to hurt U.S.-China relations.

Mr. Tang also appeared unruffled by the prospect that the United States and another Western country would try to pass a resolution condemning China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva this month.

"If somebody attempts to table an anti-China draft resolution again this year in Geneva, then I think the outcome will not be different than the previous seven times," Mr. Tang said.

Chinese security services have recently begun their toughest crackdown on dissent in years.

Inside Today

Travel

QUARTERLY

Pages 7-10

Global Upstarts Pressure Bourses To Go Where Old Rules Don't Apply

By Diana B. Henriques
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Threatened by competitors that are grabbing a growing share of their booming business, the major U.S. stock markets are trying to transform themselves by forming alliances with their foes and adopting some of their practices.

If the transformation works as its advocates hope, it could provide investors, big and small, with better service at lower prices. But if it goes awry, it could damage a national treasure: a stock market whose strength and fairness have attracted capital internationally, fostered the growth of new businesses and provided opportunities for millions of investors.

In recent weeks, the New York Stock Exchange, where traders have met on a central trading floor for 207 years, has said it might build or buy its own electronic trading network, where brokers or customers could trade stocks — especially popular ones such as those of Intel Corp. or Microsoft Corp. — that are listed on other exchanges.

The Nasdaq, an electronic marketplace linked by telephones and computer terminals, has acknowledged that it is discussing possible alliances with private trading networks. The largest such network, the Instinet unit of Reuters Group PLC, said it had talked with both Nasdaq and the New York exchange about alternative ways to trade stocks.

Some experts fear that the changes afoot will shatter the existing marketplace into many smaller and more volatile markets, making it harder for investors to be assured of the best price for their trades.

They also worry that as the New York Stock Exchange competes with other trading networks, it will be less insistent on enforcing the tough standards it imposes on companies that want to be listed there. Those standards, such as requiring that a majority of a company's board be independent outsiders, are intended to protect shareholders and are stricter than federal securities laws.

Finally, the changes could put pressure on the U.S. market to allow big investors to operate with greater secrecy, to the disadvantage of small investors.

"Competition is a good thing, but it can have some unintended consequences," warned John Coffee, a professor of securities law at Columbia University and a member of advisory committees at both the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq.

Despite the dangers, market officials and professional traders say that preserving the status quo is no longer an option. As technology improves, investors are demanding faster, cheaper ways to trade securities — and if the United States' existing markets don't respond to those demands, someone else will.

"You can't get in the way of the market," said Frank Zarb, chairman of the National Association of Securities Dealers, which operates both Nasdaq and the American

See MARKETS, Page 17



END OF A JOURNEY — Colin Prescott and Andy Elson preparing to leave their balloon after being forced to land Sunday in the sea off the western coast of Japan due to bad weather. The balloonists, who were attempting to circumnavigate the globe, were not injured. Page 5.

Stanley Kubrick Is Dead at 70

Director Made '2001: A Space Odyssey' and 'Dr. Strangelove'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Stanley Kubrick, 70, the director of "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "A Clockwork Orange" whose films often puzzled and shocked audiences only to end up as classics, died Sunday at his home in England, his family said.

The police were summoned to Mr. Kubrick's rural home in St. Albans, north of London, on Sunday afternoon, said the authorities in Hertfordshire, where he was certified dead. "There are no suspicious circumstances," the police said.

Mr. Kubrick's films included "Spartacus" in 1960, "Lolita" in 1962, "Dr. Strangelove" in 1964, "2001" in 1968 and "A Clockwork Orange" in 1971.

He also made "Barry Lyndon," released in 1975, "The Shining" in 1978 and "Full Metal Jacket" in 1987.

His latest film, "Eyes Wide Shut," is still slated for

release July 16, Warner Bros. said. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman star in the story of jealousy and obsession, which Mr. Kubrick made in great secrecy.

With Mr. Kubrick's death, the cinema loses its greatest perfectionist, a control freak who demanded the last word on every stage in the process from screenplay, via music, lighting and editing, to the final touches of postproduction.

Mr. Kubrick's love affair with movies began on his 15th birthday, and he pursued it obsessively throughout his life, producing a string of films on themes that expressed the fears and phobias of the times.

Along the way, he drove innumerable collaborators to distraction. The distinguished French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier resigned as publicist for "A Clockwork Orange" with a cable sent to Mr. Kubrick

See KUBRICK, Page 13

If Pilot Wasn't at Fault, Who Was?

By Steve Vogel
Washington Post Service

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina — A mounting firestorm of anger over the acquittal of Captain Richard Ashby has crystallized around one question: If the Marine Corps pilot who flew his jet very low and cut a cable holding a ski gondola in the Italian Alps is not at fault for the death of 20 people, then who is?

"There has to be somebody who's responsible," said Sindy Renkewitz, a young German woman who lost her father and sister in the accident. "It's not him, his superiors."

But with the Marine pilot acquitted Thursday, and the case against the navigator, Captain Joseph Schweizer, consequently appearing very weak, it will

be difficult to assign blame to any one person or small group of persons.

Instead, some here suggest that the verdict represented a broad indictment of the Marine Corps for failing to properly equip and train its aviators and then declining to look up the chain of command for a culprit when something went wrong.

"That's the only logical conclusion, that the jurors believe it's the fault of superiors, and that they believe the crew didn't have the right map, equipment and training," said Torrence Armstrong, an attorney representing some of the family members.

The most significant punishment meted out for the deaths thus far has been the removal from command of

See ITALY, Page 6

AGENDA

Bonn Drops EU Agriculture Proposal

Germany is giving up its insistence on "co-financing" in an overhaul of the EU's agriculture budget, a spokeswoman said Sunday.

In bowing to French opposition to the plan, which would have required individual governments to pick up part of the tab for farm subsidies, the German decision paved the way for progress in talks on reforms of European Union farm policy.

Bonn had viewed the co-financing plan as a key element in securing a

significant reduction in its contribution to the EU budget.

But even a relatively small degree of co-financing would have added billions to public spending in France, the EU's biggest agriculture producer.

The German spokeswoman said the concept of co-financing was "not politically negotiable."

She said that "it was decided with the partners to work on other concepts to limit expenses." Page 6.

NEW RULER

Sheikh Hamad ibn Issa ibn Sulman, new emir of Bahrain, receiving condolences Sunday in Manama. Sheikh Hamad succeeds his father, Sheikh Isa ibn Sulman al Khalifa, who had ruled the emirate since 1961. Sheikh Isa, 65, died from a heart attack Saturday, minutes after a meeting with William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary. Page 13.



Microsoft to Alter Windows Software

Books Page 13.
Crossword Page 13.
Opinion Page 12.
The Internet Page 18.
The IHT online: www.ihonline.com

Microsoft Corp. has moved to defuse a potentially explosive privacy issue by saying it will modify a feature of its Windows 98 operating system that has been quietly used to create a vast database of personal information about computer users. Page 15.

Fears Grow as Fliers Are Shifted to Less Safe Airlines

By Don Phillips
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Every day, thousands of people board planes holding a ticket imprinted with the name of a familiar U.S. airline, but take off in a jet run by an unfamiliar foreign carrier.

Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1,000 BD	Malta	55 c
Cyprus	1,000 C	Nigeria	12500 Naira
Denmark	17 DKR	Oman	1,250 QR
Finland	12.00 FM	Qatar	10.00 QR
Gibraltar	£ 0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £1.10
Great Britain	UK £1.00	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	£E 5.50	S. Africa	R15 ind VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
K. Sh.	160 U.S. M.L. (Exr.)		\$ 1.20
Kuwait	700 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim\$40.00

That means some passengers unwittingly fly on airlines with safety records that fall short of standards set in the United States and Europe.

A burgeoning practice of sharing or combining flights, known as "code-sharing," allows airlines to create marketing alliances that give passengers almost seamless travel around the globe.

But the scramble for partnerships into regions such as Asia and Africa — with some of the world's least-safe airlines — has begun to trouble some airline executives and U.S. officials. In response, airline executives for the first time are beginning an industry-wide effort to raise international aviation safety standards.

The code-sharing dilemma emerged recently after the crash of Swissair Flight 111. The flight carried 50 passengers who held tickets that had been purchased from its U.S. partner, Delta Airlines, when it crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia last year, killing all 229 people on board.

Swissair is generally regarded as one of the world's safest airlines, but the odds of dying on some foreign airlines are many times higher than on U.S. carriers. This is in part because crew training and oversight of airlines can vary widely from country to country.

China Airlines of Taiwan, for example, is an American Airlines and

Continental Airlines code-sharing partner. Airclaims Ltd. of London, which tracks airline accidents, lists three China Airlines crashes with 465 deaths in the past decade.

And a 1996 Conde Nast survey listed China Airlines as having an accident rate throughout its existence of 11.43 fatal accidents per 1 million flights, compared with a 0.15 rate for American and a 0.29 rate for Continental.

A person flying from Dallas to Taipei on Monday night, for instance, would leave on American Flight 691 and transfer in San Francisco to American Flight 6123.

At least that is what the ticket would say. But American Flight 6123, which leaves shortly after midnight, is really China Airlines Flight 3.

American Airlines has been quietly working with the Taiwan airline on safety in the past few months, officials said. With no clear legal precedents es-

See AIRLINES, Page 4

As Polls Deflate Gore, Bush Gains Ground

While other Republicans were making pilgrimages to Iowa and New Hampshire to advance their presidential hopes, the world was rushing to George Bush's door in Austin, Texas.

In the polls, the Democrats' Al Gore trailed Mr. Bush — but he is still the vice president, and it has always been difficult for anyone in a president's shadow to stand out on his own. Page 3.



Brutal Irish 'Peace' / Ruthless Tradition of the North's Militias

Belfast Gangs Are Devouring Their Own

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

BELFAST — It took death and dismemberment to bring together the families of Andrew Peden, a 35-year-old Protestant, and Andrew Kearney, a 33-year-old Catholic, but the awkward union is serving to expose one of Northern Ireland's most persistent and ruthless traditions.

Both men were victims of punishment beatings, in which members of the paramilitary armies that control working-class neighborhoods in this conflicted British province turn their violence not on their declared enemies from the other side of the religious divide but on their own.

Gangs in ski masks haul their victims into darkened alleys and back streets from homes, street corners, pubs and vehicles. They bind them, hang them upside down from railings or pin them to the ground in a crucifixion posture before beating them with hammers, iron bars and baseball bats studded with nails. Then they shoot them in the kneecaps, the thighs or feet.

Mr. Kearney died from the attack on him by a methodical 10-person Irish Republican Army squad that dragged him from the bed where he was playing with his 2-week-old daughter, shot him three times, then locked him in the elevator of his building and ripped out telephone lines so that no rescuers could reach him before he bled to death.

Mr. Peden barely survived shotgun wounds and 10 hours of assault by Ulster Volunteer Force fighters that required months of hospital treatment and a double amputation, leaving him with two stumps on either side of his groin and a palsied and stunted body that needs a daily dosage of 42 pills to keep functioning.

In a grim paradox, punishment beatings increase at times like the present when cease-fires and political negotiations drastically reduce the killing between the two warring religious communities and bring the exhilarating promise of peace. While the peace arrangements move toward a hoped-for conclusion at the end of this month, the rate of punishment beatings, more than one a day during the first two months of 1999, is the highest in 10 years.

"The groups weren't challenged when they had the guns behind them, and this is the way they point out that they still have them," said David Hanna, chief information officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. "They've had social control for 30 years now, and they don't want to lose that edge in the new circumstances."

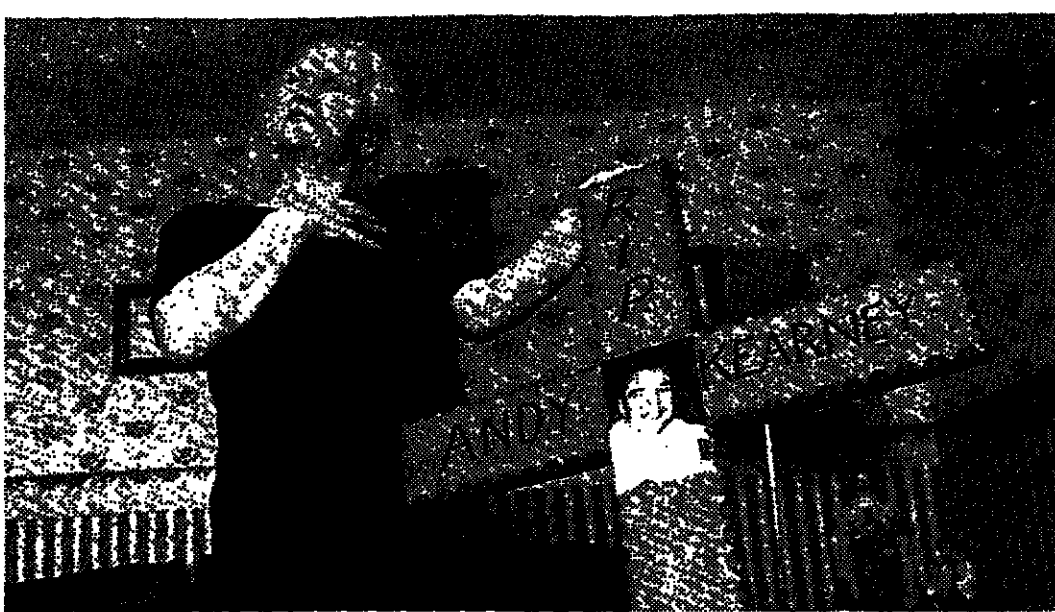
Sam Cushman, director of Families Against Intimidation and Terror, a nongovernmental organization that seeks to give voice to victims of violence, said: "It's all about power and control."

The militias took on their enforcement role, particularly in Catholic neighborhoods, to supplant British security forces and the largely Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary and to maintain unity and discipline in the separate communities as the sectarian conflict became more intense over the last three decades.

They became such an accepted and feared institution of life that in many cases targeted young men would be delivered to punishment squads by their relatives and then picked up and taken home bloodied and battered afterward. The original aim was to curb drug-dealing, vandalism, car theft and other "anti-social behavior," but now the scores being settled are just as often grudges, disputes over women and disrespect shown a militia leader.

Unlike the sectarian bombings and murders that still occur in Northern Ireland, the savagery is not the work of renegades at odds with their paramilitary groups' cease-fire declarations and endorsement of the peace settlement. It is practiced by men and women who answer to political parties sworn to the nonviolent principles of the accord.

No one questions the fact that parties like Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, or the Progressive Unionists, the political representatives of the Ulster Volunteer Force mi-



Maureen Kearney, above, holding a cross with a photo of her son, Andrew. She was an IRA loyalist until he was brutally killed by members of the predominantly Roman Catholic group last year. Andrew Peden barely survived shotgun wounds and 10 hours of torture by Protestant fighters of the Unionist Volunteer Force that required months of hospitalization and the amputation of his legs.



liaments, have control over the vigilante actions and can suspend them when it suits their purposes.

"When you look at the graphs and see a sudden falloff in punishment beatings," Mr. Cushman said, "look at the date and you'll see it's because someone like Clinton was due to come here or there was an election scheduled. They can switch it on and off."

The gangs operate with impunity because no victims testify and no witnesses come forward for fear of even more vicious retaliation. Mr. Peden and Mr. Kearney would be just two more soon-forgotten grisly statistics here were it not for the determination of their families to protest.

"These groups say they exist to protect our communities. They call themselves the sons of Ulster," said Mr. Peden, propped between two pillows on his living-room sofa. "You call this protection?" he asked, pointing to his severed limbs. His wife, Linda, has rejected an apology from militia leaders, saying, "What good is that after he has been left with half a body?"

He knows the identities of the men who beat him and sees them moving freely about his own neighborhood, the all-Protestant Glencrain housing project. He wakes up each day to the hated sight of a second-story window in a building directly across the street. It is the apartment where he was tortured

and shot after being abducted from his own back yard.

For Andrew Kearney's mother, Maureen, speaking out was a bold departure from an unquestioning lifelong commitment to the Republican cause, which has been fighting for the end of British rule here and eventual union with the Republic of Ireland. "Criticizing the IRA is like condemning my own family," she said. Her father was a member of the organization, her brother one of the IRA men interned by the British in 1971, a nephew served 20 years in prison for IRA actions, and Bobby Sands, who achieved martyr status with his hunger strike death in 1981, was her cousin.

Neither Mr. Kearney nor Mr. Peden had any involvement in the tribal politics of Northern Ireland, and their experiences illustrate graphically the random and unforgiving nature of the vigilante justice that rules their neighborhoods.

Mr. Kearney was marked for punishment because he came to the rescue of a 17-year-old boy being beaten by an IRA brigade commander in a pub and then challenged the man to a fist fight outside. Mr. Peden became a target because he was mistakenly thought to be an ally of a paramilitary neighbor mixed up in a dispute with a rival militia. He was seized, blindfolded and thrown out the floor of a waiting car on May 2 as he was preparing to take his wife and three children on a weekend trip. He had no idea of why he was being assaulted, and when he tried to protest his innocence during the beating, he was hit and told to shut up.

Mr. Kearney had received warnings that he was going to "get done," his mother said, and for more than a year he had been assuring her that he was "looking over his shoulder." At the urging of a local priest, he offered to compose a letter of apology and recite it in the pub, but IRA representatives told Mrs. Kearney that it wouldn't satisfy the offended commander's desire for revenge. The masked men came to get him just after midnight the morning of July 19, the date that is now on his tombstone.

Of the IRA, the organization she has been loyal to her entire life, she says, "They're taking the violence they used to use against the British and the security forces and they're turning it on their own community. They're thugs, scum."

Anywhere in the World, Tourists Take a Chance

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — Eight tourists, including an American couple, were slashed to death last week deep in the Ugandan jungle, apparently by Hutu militiamen targeting Britons and Americans. The tourists had been there in the hope of trekking up a slope full of biting insects and stinging nettles to spend a brief hour in the company of mountain gorillas.

The U.S. State Department and the British Foreign Office had issued warnings about fighting in western and northern Uganda, but the park they were visiting, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, was considered safe.

Should the tourists have been warned of a political threat? Or were they reckless even to go at all, given the natural risks involved?

Now, let's put aside Uganda, put aside all of Africa, the continent comprising 15 of the 28 countries on the State Department's "Travel Warning" list.

Instead consider Austria, the land of edelweiss. Austria is instructive because most of the 38 people smothered by two avalanches there last month were tourists — skiers. Austria is also instructive because late last year the State Department briefly cautioned travelers to be wary of going there, detecting vague "threats to American interests."

Ultimately, better weather reports might have saved more lives than deep political intelligence.

Alternatively, look at Egypt. The risks there are no secret. Muslim fundamentalists trying to choke off the government's tourism revenue killed dozens of tourists between 1992 and mid-1997. But after a government crackdown, Egypt was considered a fairly safe destination on Nov. 16, 1997; it was on nobody's "don't go" list. The next day, 58 tourists were cut down at the Temple of Luxor, and tourism dropped 80 percent.

The point: Predicting danger for tourists is difficult, tour operators and foreign service officials say, and political danger may be the hardest to predict of all.

Who could have known that Islamic fundamentalists would set off a bomb last year in Kenya? Or, in a country like South Africa with a minuscule Muslim population, that a few anti-American Muslim fanatics would blow up a Planet Hollywood restaurant, killing not a single American (clearly, Americans were the desired target) but instead a South African banker, while maiming a British family?

"No one could have foreseen this," Sue Ockwell, a spokeswoman for Accia Expeditions in London, said of the attack last week in Uganda, which killed four of her tour group's clients. "The Foreign Office didn't, and our local contacts had no sense of danger."

It could be argued that someone could have sensed the danger.

Not too long ago, Hutu militias attacked a Ugandan village and killed nearly everyone in it. Gorilla trekking in Rwanda and the former Zaire died out because of guerrilla warfare. Moreover, diplomats and journalists working in east Africa were aware that some Hutu militants resented Americans and Britons.

But unlike the Egyptian fundamentalists, the Hutu militias had never announced any hostile intent toward tourists. On Wednesday a British newspaper reported the Ugandan government had received a threat in writing. Uganda denies it. "There was no warning," said Arthur Kafeero, a press officer at the Ugandan Embassy in London. "If there had been, preventive action would have been taken."

[The state-owned Sunday Vision reported that the Ugandan government has suspended treks to the habitat of the rare gorillas, Agence France-Presse reported from Kampala on Sunday. The month-long suspension covers visits to both the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, where the tourists were killed, and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is further south.]

Keeping travelers apprised of dangers is very much on the minds of Western governments. Most of the 28 countries on the State Department's "don't go" list, however, are fairly obvious threats. They are either at war, or have public, government-endorsed bouts of anti-American feeling. Among the former are Bosnia, Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, the

two Congos, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau. Among the latter are Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan and Serbia. (The list's glaring exception is Montserrat, which is in danger of being buried in volcanic ash.)

Yet no country is on the list simply because it has a high crime rate, although consular information sheets on every country in the world include warnings about crime. "Just because a country isn't on the travel warning list, it's important not to be lulled into thinking it's completely safe," a State Department spokeswoman said.

The problem is that crime is spotty, so it wouldn't be useful or fair to stigmatize an entire country over its crime rate. For example, crime has closed all the luxury hotels in downtown Johannesburg, but tourists happily stay in newer hotels in safer northern Johannesburg and then return to the airport for flights to crime-free game parks and beaches.

American tourism, of course, is not immune to the crime problem. In 1993, after nine foreign tourists were killed in south Florida, Germany put Florida on its "don't go" list. Yet no one can credibly argue that all of America is unsafe.

Ms. Ockwell, of the British tour outfit, said that in an effort to get more timely safety updates, representatives of the British travel industry recently met with officials from the Foreign Office. Not surprisingly, that meeting was prompted by old news: the killing of three British tourists kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen, and a government warning to Britons to shun Chile because of resentment over Britain's detention of General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator.

The industry wanted better international coordination, and it wanted specific warnings: Tour promoters thought remote parks in Chile were safe for British tourists even if the capital, Santiago, was dicey.

But the meeting's agenda illustrated the problem: Yemen was discussed only after the fact; Uganda was not discussed. Foreign travel dangers often get noticed only after the worst has happened.

Uganda Kills 10 More Rebels

A Ugandan Army official said that Ugandan soldiers have killed 10 more Rwandan rebels in their continuing efforts to punish those responsible for killing the foreign tourists. The Associated Press reported from Mbarara, Uganda. The killings bring to 25 the number of rebels killed by Ugandan and Rwandan forces, Lieutenant Colonel Benon Biraaro said Saturday.

France Bestows Its Film Awards

PARIS — France has honored its best in cinema at the annual Cesar awards, giving the top prize to "La Vieillesse des Anges" (The Dream Life of Angels), a first-time directorial effort by Erick Zouca, and crowning the film two much-praised actresses with yet another laurel.

The film made a splash last year at the Cannes film festival, where its stars, Elodie Bouchet and Natacha Regnier, shared the best actress prize.

On Saturday, Miss Bouchet bested the heavily favored Catherine Deneuve for best actress, while Miss Regnier won an award for most promising young actress.

Though Miss Deneuve's loss for her role in "Place Vendôme" was a surprise, there was no surprise in the winner for best foreign film: Roberto Benigni's "Life Is Beautiful," which has swept film festivals worldwide and has been nominated for a slew of American Oscars.

The best actor award went to Jacques Villeret for the comedy "Le Diner de Cons," and best supporting actor went to Daniel Prevost for the same film. The movie also won the award for best screenplay.

Best director went to Patrice Chéreau for "Ces qui m'aiment prennent le train (Those Who Love Me Will Take the Train)." That film also took the best supporting actress award for Dominique Blanc.

TRAVEL UPDATE

New York Opens Visitor Center

NEW YORK (NYT) — New York City has taken a step toward greater hospitality with the opening of a computerized visitor information center in midtown that is designed to help tourists navigate a maze of cultural offerings using state-of-the-art technology. Located at 810 Seventh Ave. at 53d St., the center will be open 365 days a year and offer information and ticket sales to numerous events. Hours are 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. on weekdays and 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. weekends.

Mexico Imposes a Tourist Fee

MEXICO CITY (LAT) — Mexicans have been squeezed for more than a year by their government's relentless budget cuts and tax increases, and soon foreign visitors will start feeling the pinch. On July 1, tourists who travel beyond the border region into Mexico will be charged a \$15 entry fee, with revenues — projected at more than \$120 million a year — going toward more modern immigration systems and more aggressive tourism promotion.

All foreign visitors who arrive by plane, travel by land more than 16 miles (25.6 kilometers) into the country or come ashore from cruise ships for more than 72 hours will be charged the fee. It will not be imposed on the millions of day visitors and workers who move back and forth in the border economy.

EgyptAir Loses Alcohol Ruling

CAIRO (AP) — In a ruling likely to have wide repercussions, an Appeal Court said Saturday that EgyptAir stewards have the right to refuse to serve alcoholic drinks because alcohol is banned by Islam, court officials said.

Four hostesses had sued the carrier for forcing them to serve alcoholic beverages in flight. The ruling could have a big impact if it is interpreted that bar, restaurant and hotel workers can refuse to serve alcohol on religious grounds.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

WEDNESDAY: Burma.

THURSDAY: Lithuania.

FRIDAY: Liberia, Mauritius, Zambia.

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters.

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Algeria	High 100° Low 70°	High 100° Low 70°	High 100° Low 70°
Andorra	High 90° Low 60°	High 90° Low 60°	High 90° Low 60°
Austria	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Belgium	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Bulgaria	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°
Croatia	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°
Czechia	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Denmark	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Estonia	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Finland	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
France	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Germany	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Greece	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Hungary	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Ireland	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Italy	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Latvia	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Lithuania	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Malta	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Netherlands	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Norway	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Poland	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Portugal	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Romania	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°
Slovakia	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Slovenia	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Spain	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Sweden	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Switzerland	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Turkey	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Ukraine	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°
United Kingdom	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Yugoslavia	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°	High 70° Low 50°

North America	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Alaska	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Arizona	High 90° Low 70°	High 90° Low 70°	High 90° Low 70°
Arkansas	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
California	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Colorado	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Connecticut	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Delaware	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
District of Columbia	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Florida	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Georgia	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Hawaii	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Idaho	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Illinois	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Indiana	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Iowa	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Kansas	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Kentucky	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Louisiana	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Maine	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Maryland	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Massachusetts	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Michigan	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Minnesota	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Mississippi	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Missouri	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Montana	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Nebraska	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Nevada	High 90° Low 70°	High 90° Low 70°	High 90° Low 70°
New Hampshire	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
New Jersey	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
New Mexico	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
New York	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
North Carolina	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
North Dakota	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Ohio	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Oklahoma	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Oregon	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Pennsylvania	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Rhode Island	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
South Carolina	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
South Dakota	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Tennessee	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Texas	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Utah	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Vermont	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Virginia	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Washington	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
West Virginia	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°	High 80° Low 60°
Wisconsin	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°
Wyoming	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°	High 60° Low 40°

	Tuesday		Wednesday	
	High	Low	High	Low
Albania	80°	60°	80°	60°
Armenia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Australia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Azerbaijan	80°	60°	80°	60°
Bangladesh	80°	60°	80°	60°
Barbados	80°	60°	80°	60°
Bhutan	80°	60°	80°	60°
Bolivia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Bosnia and Herzegovina	80°	60°	80°	60°
Brazil	80°	60°	80°	60°
Bulgaria	80°	60°	80°	60°
Cameroon	80°	60°	80°	60°
Canada	80°	60°	80°	60°
Chad	80°	60°	80°	60°
China	80°	60°	80°	60°
Hong Kong	80°	60°	80°	60°
India	80°	60°	80°	60°
Indonesia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Iran	80°	60°	80°	60°
K. Lumpur	80°	60°	80°	60°
Kazakhstan	80°	60°	80°	60°
Kenya	80°	60°	80°	60°
Malaysia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Mexico	80°	60°	80°	60°
Moldova	80°	60°	80°	60°
Monaco	80°	60°	80°	60°
Morocco	80°	60°	80°	60°
Nepal	80°	60°	80°	60°
Netherlands	80°	60°	80°	60°
Norway	80°	60°	80°	60°
Poland	80°	60°	80°	60°
Portugal	80°	60°	80°	60°
Romania	80°	60°	80°	60°
Russia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Saudi Arabia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Slovakia	80°	60°	80°	60°
Slovenia	80°	60°	80°	60°
South Africa	80°	60°	80°	60°
Spain	80°	60°	80°	60°
Sweden	80°	60°	80°	60°
Switzerland	80°	60°	80°	60°
Taiwan	80°	60°	80°	60°
Tanzania	80°	60°	80°	60°
Turkey	80°	60°	80°	60°
Ukraine	80°	60°	80°	60°
USA	80°	60°	80°	60°
Uzbekistan	80°	60°	80°	60°
Vietnam	80°	60°	80°	60°
Yugoslavia	80°	60°	80°	60°

Africa	
Algeria	80° 1950°
Angola	80° 1950°
Benin	80° 1950°
Burkina Faso	80° 1950°
Burundi	80° 1950°
Cameroon	80° 1950°
Cape Verde	80° 1950°
Chad	80° 1950°
Cote d'Ivoire	80° 1950°
DRC	80° 1950°
Egypt	80° 1950°
Ghana	80° 1950°
Guinea	80° 1950°
Guinea-Bissau	80° 1950°
Kenya	80° 1950°
Liberia	80° 1950°
Mali	80° 1950°
Morocco	80° 1950°
Mozambique	80° 1950°
Niger	80° 1950°
Nigeria	80° 1950°
Rwanda	80° 1950°
Senegal	80° 1950°
Sierra Leone	80° 1950°
South Africa	80° 1950°
South Sudan	80° 1950°
Tanzania	80° 1950°
Togo	80° 1950°
Tunisia	80° 1950°
Zambia	80° 1950°
Zimbabwe	80° 1950°

Latin America	
Argentina	80° 1950°
Brazil	80° 1950°
Chile	80° 1950°
Colombia	80° 1950°
Costa Rica	80° 1950°
Cuba	80° 1950°
Dominican Republic	80° 1950°
Ecuador	80° 1950°
El Salvador	80° 1950°
Guatemala	80° 1950°
Honduras	80° 1950°
Mexico	80° 1950°
Nicaragua	80° 1950°
Panama	80° 1950°
Paraguay	80° 1950°
Peru	80° 1950°
Puerto Rico	80° 1950°
Uruguay	80° 1950°
Venezuela	80° 1950°

Oceania	
Australia	80° 1950°
New Zealand	80° 1950°

THE AMERICAS

Gore's Polls: No. 2 Job Is No Help

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Vice President Al Gore has only one declared rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000. His party is delighted in its newfound popularity after impeachment, while President Bill Clinton is basking in impressive job approval ratings.

Why then is Mr. Gore, who has never provoked as much hostility from his foes as Mr. Clinton and who is widely regarded as the most involved vice president in modern times, performing so feebly in the polls?

With only a few exceptions, survey after survey shows that in a head-to-head matchup, Mr. Gore has less support than two Republicans who are planning to run, Governor George Bush of Texas and Elizabeth Hanford Dole.

In a Time/CNN poll released Friday, Mr. Bush leads Mr. Gore among adults nationwide by 52 percent to 41 percent. The survey also found that 60 percent thought Mr. Bush was strong and decisive, while only 39 percent said that of Mr. Gore.

Another poll, by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, found that President Clinton's popularity did not fully transfer. Among voters who approve of the job the president is doing, just 32 percent said there was a good chance they would vote for Mr. Gore.

There is no way to describe those numbers as positive for Mr. Gore. Even so, he might take solace in that his potential support may not be as fragile as the numbers suggest. For one thing, no matter how active he has been, Mr. Gore is still the vice president, and it has always been difficult for anyone in a president's shadow to develop a distinct persona before people begin to focus on the presidential competition.

Mr. Gore's advisers repeatedly invoke Vice President George Bush, who at this point in the 1988 campaign lagged far behind two Democrats, Gary Hart and Michael Dukakis, only to rise from behind to win the White House. A Gallup Poll conducted in January 1987 found that Mr. Bush was trailing Mr. Hart by 38 percent to 51 percent.

Turning to the current situation, Mark Penn, who conducts polls for Mr. Gore, as well as for Mr. Clinton, said: "He's not really seen right now as a presidential candidate but as a vice president. Historically, vice presidents start out in horse races somewhat lower. Bush was significantly behind Hart and Dukakis."

William McInturff, a Republican pollster, concedes that he made the identical argument on behalf of Mr. Bush in 1987. "If I were a Gore loyalist," Mr. McInturff said, "I could substitute all of my quotes — scratch Bush and put in Gore — because some of it is endemic to being the vice president. People have no real sense of who he is."

Still, Mr. McInturff was taken aback by the figures. "It's really stunning how bad off he is," he said. "Anybody who's been a well-known Republican is clocking the guy. My uncharitable view is that Gore is a stiff and that in comparison to Clinton he has nowhere near the skills."

Mr. McInturff's candidate this time around, Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, still registers far behind Mr. Gore. The outpouring for Mr. Bush and Mrs. Dole may be misleading because of their peculiar circumstances. They have very high name recognition. But people may have extraordinarily idealized notions of their views because no one really knows how Mr. Bush or Mrs. Dole stand on most national or international issues. Mr. Penn calls it "a glow factor that's untested."

Mr. Gore, who was in San Francisco this week on his 53d trip to



Mr. Gore talking to students at Helen Keller School in New York.

California as vice president, dismissed the polls as "unreliable."

An analysis this week by the Pew Research Center asserts that Vice President Bush's weaknesses in 1987 "may have reflected mixed views of the administration," while Mr. Gore's "position in the polls today may have more to do with his own image problems."

POLITICAL NOTES

Tripp Blasts Lewinsky's Story

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky's story of her relationship with President Bill Clinton was "fiction, fable, fantasy, farce and fairy tale," Linda Tripp, the woman who befriended and betrayed the ex-White House intern, said on Sunday.

In her first interview since Ms. Lewinsky's televised appearances and book release last week, the Pentagon public affairs specialist also attacked Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton "was complicit in the time that I was there in virtually every scandal," Mrs. Tripp said on the ABC program "This Week," adding that if the first lady ran for the U.S. Senate in New York "many things would be a problem once they surfaced."

Mrs. Tripp set off the scandal when she secretly taped Ms. Lewinsky's conversations about her affair with the president and turned the tapes over to the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

After working in the White House for the Bush and Clinton administrations, Mrs. Tripp was transferred to the Pentagon in 1994. She met Ms. Lewinsky when the intern was also transferred there.

Ms. Lewinsky has been scathing in her criticism of Mrs. Tripp, saying she felt her former confidant betrayed her.

On Sunday, Andrew Morton, author of Ms. Lewinsky's version of events, "Monica's Story," said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the former intern viewed Mrs. Tripp as "the devil incarnate." (Reuters)

Connie Mack to Leave Senate

WASHINGTON — Senator Connie Mack of Florida, the third-ranking member of the chamber's Republican leadership, will announce this week he is not seeking a third term next year, according to people close to him.

Mr. Mack, 58, had collected nearly \$3 million for a re-election campaign, but stirred speculation that he might retire when he told reporters last month he had not made up his mind about running again.

Other Republicans, including Governor Jeb Bush of Florida, have strongly urged Mr. Mack to run again.

But Mr. Mack, who is an advocate of term limits, was said by friends to be eager to pursue life outside the Senate.

Word of Mr. Mack's plans spread when he started informing friends, family members and Senate colleagues of his decision. He plans a public announcement Saturday in Fort Myers, Florida, aides said. (WP)

Away From Politics

• The number of Americans killed in fires is dropping dramatically, thanks to such safety improvements as smoke detectors, sprinklers and child-proof lighters. In 1997, fire deaths totaled 4,050, down from 5,215 in 1988, says the National Fire Protection Association. (WP)

• Florida's largest electric utility has been ordered to pay \$37.3 million to the family of a 12-year-old girl who was killed in a traffic accident two years ago. Jill Goldberg died in 1997 when her mother's car was hit at an intersection in Miami where a traffic light hung dark. Workers for Florida Power & Light Co. had shut off power to repair a downed line and had not noticed they also had cut power to the traffic signal. (AP)

Welcome to the Biggest Little Presidential Campaign in Texas

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

AUSTIN, Texas — David Miner, a Republican state representative from North Carolina, arrived here last week carrying what has become the most coveted political invitation in the country: lunch at the governor's mansion with Governor George Bush of Texas.

"I believe it was beef," a starry-eyed Mr. Miner said later of the menu, "but I was so excited by seeing the kind of candidate that we haven't had in a long time, I didn't pay much attention to what I was eating."

State Representative Chuck Larson of Iowa had coffee with Mr. Bush on Feb. 8. Politicians from Iowa, whose precinct caucuses kick off the presidential nominating process, normally wait for candidates to come to them. But Mr. Larson was one of a dozen Iowa legislators who chartered two planes that day to fly to Austin, and he did not leave disappointed.

"We have had an opportunity to meet Steve Forbes and Dan Quayle and the others, and they're all very sharp and competent and capable," Mr. Larson said of other candidates. "But after meeting George Bush, you

know that if he runs, he will be the next president of the United States."

The Texas capital is in the grip of a phenomenon that may be unique in the annals of presidential campaign start-ups. As a slew of other Republican candidates make pilgrimages to Iowa and New Hampshire and struggle for money, media attention and political support, the world is rushing to George Bush's door.

Almost every day now, the heavy metal gate on the back side of the governor's mansion here slides open around noon and a group of prospective recruits for Mr. Bush's presidential campaign enters for an audience with the governor.

The supply appears endless: politicians hoping to find a winner, curious business executives, eager fund-raisers, operatives looking for a piece of the action and a procession of policy experts who represent many of the best and brightest in the Republican Party. Demand is so heavy that Mr. Bush's staff is booking visits for April.

Bush allies say the visits reflect a genuine grass-roots movement by Republicans desperate to recapture the White House in 2000. Cynics say it is a carefully calculated effort by

Mr. Bush's team to create an aura of inevitability around the campaign of someone who has served just four years and seven weeks in elective office and is untested in national politics.

Whichever the case, Mr. Bush was to begin his presidential campaign here Sunday afternoon by unveiling an exploratory committee stocked with names in the Republican establishment as well as members of the governor's generation, and blessed with the kind of institutional support that is extraordinary for a first-time candidate. The undertaking was bound to be burdened by what Mr. Bush's press secretary, Karen Hughes, calls "stratospherically high expectations" that can only mean trouble in the months ahead.

"They're engaged in the easy part of being a front-runner, which is rolling out the people," said Mike Murphy, a Republican media consultant not aligned with any campaign. "The most difficult thing is making sure you spell the names right of everyone endorsing you." Mr. Bush's advisers claim they are keeping their feet on the ground, although some people here have begun to doubt that, sensing that some of those around the governor have been caught up in the hype

of the rush to clamber aboard the campaign. "It is one of the best noncampaigns going," said one Bush ally who has been a frequent visitor to the governor's mansion.

"The fact that the noncampaign has been so successful makes it frightening to start the real campaign." Perhaps, but the Bush camp would not trade places with any of the governor's rivals for the Republican nomination.

Mr. Bush decided months ago he would not travel to places like Iowa and New Hampshire while the Texas Legislature was in session this spring, a questionable strategy given the organizational demands in those states. But the Bush campaign has been taking shape here day by day, and whatever qualms Mr. Bush has had about putting his family through a grueling presidential campaign appear to have been resolved.

Despite Mr. Bush's vow to concentrate on his state legislative agenda, his presidential campaign is absorbing large portions of many days as he bones up on domestic and international issues. Mr. Bush has taken part in half a dozen policy briefings in recent weeks, four-hour sessions that have covered health policy, the underclass, Social Security, Medicare and defense policy.

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United Kingdom (CC) • 1-800-35-1001 • United Kingdom (CC) • 1-800-35-1001
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Japan (CC) • 0-800-88-0119 • To call using CHG # • 0-800-88-0122

ASIA/PACIFIC

Clinton Aides Admit Serious Security Lapses on Espionage by Chinese

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Two of President Bill Clinton's top advisers have said that an investigation into China's acquisition of U.S. nuclear weapons technology showed enormous lapses in security at the Energy Department's laboratories in the 1980s, and they acknowledged that they moved too slowly to solve the problems during Mr. Clinton's first term.

The comments, in response to an article in The New York Times on Saturday detailing a federal investigation into how China was able to copy the most advanced miniature nuclear warhead, known as the W-88, came Saturday from the president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.

"The information that we were

provided in 1997 made clear that there was a serious security problem at the national labs dating back to the mid-1980s, which we were going to deal with in a systematic and comprehensive way," Mr. Berger said.

The authority to tighten security and begin a major counterintelligence push at the laboratories arose from a directive signed by Mr. Clinton in February 1998, after a nine-month investigation into security lapses at Los Alamos National Laboratory and other laboratories.

But Mr. Richardson said "the major reforms were instituted in October 1998, a month after I came in" as energy secretary, succeeding Federico Pena.

In other words, the tightening happened nine months after Mr. Clinton's order was signed, and 18 months after the details of the security breach were first relayed to the White House.

The administration's critics say the delays indicated that the White House was playing down the severity of the reports to avoid derailing the effort to put relations with China on a better footing.

Mr. Berger and other officials deny that.

At the same time, senior administration officials say Mr. Richardson, who previously served as chief delegate to the United Nations, was not briefed on the investigation until a month after joining the Energy Department. Even then, it came from an Energy Department official, Nora Trulock, who first raised questions about the Los Alamos case, rather than from the National Security Council or the FBI.

Asked to explain the delays, senior administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that despite

Mr. Clinton's directive in early 1998, the Energy Department moved extremely slowly.

Mr. Pena announced his decision to leave the department in the spring of 1998, and major decisions were held in abeyance. "Things were kind of hanging out there" until Mr. Richardson's arrival, one official said.

The main suspect in the warhead case was identified only as a Chinese-American computer scientist at the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico. But it was not the first time the administration was made aware of security breaches there.

In December 1997, Peter Lee, a physicist, admitted in a plea bargain agreement that in 1985 he gave China classified information involving the use of lasers to simulate nuclear detonations.

Former officials of the Bush and Reagan administrations say that, in re-

spect, the government was remarkably lax about lab security in the 1980s, even during the Reagan-era arms buildup.

"It is quite clear now that things were far too casual," said James Lilley, U.S. ambassador to China from 1989 to 1993, and after that a senior Defense Department official. Mr. Lilley, also a former CIA operative in China, said: "This has been going on for a long, long time. We had Ministry of State Security defectors and other Chinese who became agents, and they made it clear that this was a top priority of their industrial and intelligence apparatus."

While Mr. Lilley blamed the two Republican administrations he served in, he added that the Clinton administration was "caught in bureaucratic struggles between the Energy Department and the FBI, and the Chinese saw that we were still sitting ducks" in the early to mid-

1990s. But Mr. Lilley said Washington should not disrupt its dealings with Beijing because of the spying.

"You've got to get some maturity into the relationship with China," he said, arguing that the United States could deepen its economic engagement "while still restricting high technology exports and breaking up their espionage rings."

The view in Congress may be different. The steady drip of disclosures about Beijing's efforts to obtain U.S. technology may lead Congress to derail efforts for China to join the World Trade Organization — an objective of the Chinese for many years.

Senator Urges More Vigilance

The Senate Intelligence Committee chairman, Richard Shelby, criticized the Clinton administration Sunday for moving too slowly to tighten security after a major leak of nuclear secrets to China was discovered in 1997. Reuters reported from Washington.

"We've been pushing, we've been prodding the administration to do more, to tighten up security," the Alabama Republican said on the NBC News program "Meet the Press."

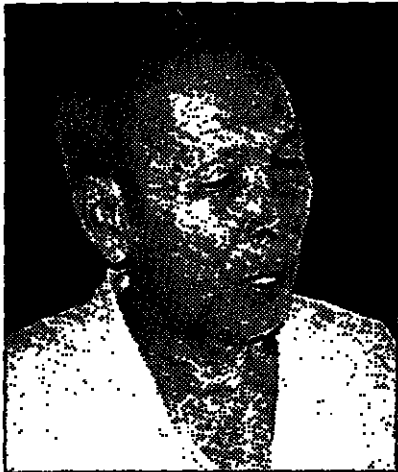
"I think they're beginning to, but it's been a long time," Mr. Shelby said. "They waited a long time. They could have done more. They could have done more immediately. It will damage, if it hasn't already damaged our national security in a big, big way."

Mr. Shelby said Congress would hold hearings as soon as possible to look into the leak of secrets to China in the mid-1980s and the administration's subsequent investigation.

"The attitude of lax security is going to do more damage to our national security than what we've seen in these newspaper articles," Mr. Shelby said.

Cambodian Troops Arrest Last Khmer Rouge Chief

By Chris Seper
Washington Post Service



Ta Mok, the arrested Khmer Rouge leader, faces trial in his homeland.

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian military has arrested the last fugitive leader of the Khmer Rouge and pledged to bring him to trial before a national genocide tribunal.

The capture of Ta Mok on Saturday marked the first time a senior Khmer Rouge leader had been arrested for his role in the group's four-year period in power in the late 1970s, when more than 1 million Cambodians were killed or died from starvation, torture or neglect.

A recent United Nations report called for an international tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders, but government officials seem intent on a single, locally conducted trial just for Mr. Ta Mok.

Om Yinteng, an adviser to Prime Minister Hun Sen, said he did not think an international tribunal would be necessary after a local trial for Mr. Ta Mok.

All other remaining Khmer Rouge leaders have received amnesty under government peace deals.

Mr. Om Yinteng said: "We will use Cambodian law and a Cambodian tribunal. That should be enough."

Mr. Ta Mok, a one-legged military chieftain known as "the Butcher," is considered one of the Khmer Rouge's most violent and hard-line members.

Unlike many of the group's leaders, who are considered architects of the Communist killing machine, Mr. Ta Mok is said to have been directly involved in violent internal purges and other massacres.

He has been the de facto leader of the Khmer Rouge rebels since a shake-up in 1997 that placed Pol Pot, the founder and longtime leader of the group, under house arrest by the Khmer Rouge until he died last year.

Diplomats and government officials said Mr. Ta Mok had been surrounded by government troops near the Thai border and captured along with a small number of troops and family members.

Government Pledges a Trial

Khieu Kanharith, a government spokesman, said Mr. Ta Mok would face trial in Cambodia, casting doubt on the government's willingness to see senior Khmer Rouge officials tried in an international court. The Associated Press reported.

Mr. Khieu Kanharith said: "He was arrested under the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge. But please wait for the prosecutor's investigation. The charges could include everything."

UN legal experts have recommended the creation of an international tribunal to try senior Khmer Rouge leaders.

Although the Cambodian government has not ruled out an international trial, Mr. Hun Sen has responded coolly to the UN experts' recommendation, saying he favored the creation of a South Africa-style truth commission to investigate the brutalities of the regime.

The United States, the staunchest supporter of an international tribunal, has welcomed the arrest of Mr. Ta Mok and promised to assist Cambodia's efforts to bring the Khmer Rouge chief to justice.

James Rubin, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said: "We are encouraged that we now have the opportunity to bring one of the most notorious war criminals in the recent past to justice, and we will now be focusing our efforts on working with the Cambodian government to that end."



FLIGHT FOR PEACE — Thousands of Filipinos releasing doves Sunday at a peace rally in Manila. The crowd urged Communist rebels to release captive military officers and called for a negotiated peace.

3 Militant Groups Threaten Americans

Pakistan-Based Extremists Tied to bin Laden Issue Death Warnings

By Kamran Khan
and Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

KARACHI, Pakistan — Three Muslim militant groups based in Pakistan, angry about the killings of some of their comrades last August when the U.S. bombed terrorist training camps in neighboring Afghanistan, are threatening revenge killings against Americans.

The threats to retaliate come mainly from Harkat ul Ansar, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States.

The group is suspected of having had a role in the 1995 kidnapping and likely killing of four Western tourists, includ-

ing an American, Donald Hutchings, in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

At least seven Harkat members were killed and two dozen were wounded in the U.S. attacks on six training camps linked to Osama bin Laden, the suspected terrorist who has been charged in the Aug. 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

At a news conference in Islamabad following the Aug. 20 U.S. assault on camps near Khosht and Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, Harkat leaders vowed that the harm done to its members would not go unanswered.

In recent interviews here in Pakistan's largest city, Harkat leaders and others issued their first specific public threat to retaliate against Americans.

"The veterans of the Khosht bombing form the nucleus of Osama bin Laden loyalists, whose sole mission in life is to settle the score with the United States," said a senior Harkat member, who requested anonymity.

"For each of us killed or wounded in the cowardly U.S. attack, at least 100 Americans will be killed," the Harkat member said. "I may not be alive, but you will remember my words."

Other Harkat sources predicted that the organization would exact "bloody retaliation" for the Clinton administration's attempt to strike at Mr. bin Laden for the embassy bombings.

The militant group has maintained close ties to Mr. bin Laden since it was formed in the 1980s to join Islamic guerrillas in their successful decade-long fight to oust the Soviet Army from Afghanistan.

Since that war ended in 1989, Harkat has sent a large number of Muslim militants from Pakistan across an unrecognized border dividing the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir to fight security forces in Indian-controlled areas.

Harkat and other militant Pakistani groups were using Mr. bin Laden's camps to provide military training to their members, according to U.S., Indian and other intelligence agencies.

Lee James Irwin, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, indicated Friday that officials there had received no written threats against Americans from Harkat or any other Pakistani group.

But a senior official in Washington said such threats have surfaced through intelligence channels. The official said that Harkat is believed to be capable of carrying out its threats and to be closely tied to Mr. bin Laden.

Militant Muslim groups are suspected of killing six Americans in two Karachi street shootings, security officials said. Those attacks, still unsolved, claimed the lives of two U.S. consulate employees in 1995 and four oil company workers in 1997.

2 Bombs Kill 7 During Concert In Bangladesh

Reuters

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Seven people were killed and more than 200 injured when two bombs exploded at a cultural and music show in Bangladesh's western Jessore district Sunday, officials and witnesses said.

The bombs exploded as thousands of people were watching an open-air show, witnesses said. The police said they had made a number of arrests and suspected political or religious extremists of being responsible for the blasts.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed criticized the bombing as a "barbaric act by mindless terror groups" and indirectly blamed it on her political opponents, the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

"We have information that the BNP has formed 10 squads to launch bomb attacks randomly," Sheikh Hasina said at a rally in Dhaka.

Syed Hasan Imam, president of Uddi Shilpi Gosthi, a group that organized the show, said he believed the bombing had been carried out by Islamic fundamentalists who "opposed the nation's march forward." The Dhaka-based cultural group is aligned with the Communist Party.

"This is part of a deep-rooted conspiracy against progressive forces," he said at a news conference in the capital. "The bombs were apparently planted before the show started and went off suddenly, leaving two craters in the ground," a Jessore police officer, Mohammed Mazhar, said by telephone.

"An investigation is continuing," he said, adding that Home Minister Rafiqul Islam visited the scene Sunday.

Three of the dead were show performers, according to a local journalist. "Some people died on the spot, while others succumbed to injuries in the hospital," said Abdul Majid, a senior official at Jessore hospital.

Many were injured during a panicked stampede for cover, witnesses said.

Last month, six people were killed when gunmen opened fire at a rally in nearby Kushtia district. Both Jessore and Kushtia have a history of political and religious extremism.

21 Die as India Air Force Plane Crashes Near New Delhi Airport

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — An Indian Air Force transport plane crashed amid a cluster of huts near the airport here Sunday, exploding in a ball of fire and killing 21 people, officials said.

The Russian-built Antonov-32 suddenly veered off its landing path, clipped a brick boundary wall and vaulted into a drinking water reservoir, flattening dozens of brick shacks used by construction workers building the water tanks, witnesses said.

Six others were injured in the accident, which left the front half of the plane embedded in the water tank and its truncated tail end lying in a heap of blackened, twisted metal on the ground.

The airport, which handles international, domestic and military flights, was closed to traffic but later reopened.

It was the second air accident in three days in India. On Friday, an Air France cargo plane crash-landed in the

southern city of Madras. The plane was burned to a skeleton, but only one member of the five-person crew was injured.

The air force launched an inquiry into the accident Sunday and civil and military officials were unwilling to make immediate comment on the likely cause. Dennis Keeler, a retired air marshal, told STAR-TV that the airport had been suddenly enveloped in thick fog that reduced visibility to nearly zero and that the aircraft apparently had undershot the runway.

"It was clear early in the morning," said Budhan Singh Kaitwar, a witness who was not hurt, "but later there was a thick wave of fog."

Sheila Dixit, chief minister of the state of New Delhi, said 18 people on board the plane and three civilians on the ground were confirmed dead.

The plane was flying from Orwari in central India when it went down about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the airport, the Press Trust reported.

AIRLINES: Concerns Are Growing Over Shifting of Passengers to Less-Safe Carriers

Continued from Page 1

tabilitating liability in a code-sharing crash, many airline executives maintain that the rush to book up with carriers that have statistically poorer safety records has left U.S. carriers open to lawsuits for crashes overseas.

Others say airlines face a moral dilemma as well.

"I believe airlines enter into alliances because it's to their advantage economically," said Kenneth Mead, Transportation Department inspector-general, who has begun a formal investigation of the safety implications of these marketing partnerships. "That's a legitimate objective. There's a corresponding obligation along with it — a safety obligation."

The Defense Department has also told airlines that any carrier that wants a piece of the government's \$1.2 billion yearly travel bill must assure officials that their foreign partners have safety standards that are "substantially equivalent" to those of the U.S. carrier.

Under code-sharing, one airline buys a block of tickets on another airline's

flight and lists the flight in reservation systems under its name, or "code."

The tickets will read as if the passengers are flying on a U.S. carrier, even though they actually transfer to a plane flown by another airline.

Passengers are supposed to be notified, but many pay little attention until they show up at the gate and find themselves boarding a plane of a different color.

Code-sharing is attractive for airlines because it increases feeder traffic on domestic routes and makes an airline's international reach seem much greater.

U.S. government employees and military personnel are particularly affected because they usually travel under contracts that require use of specific airline routes. These contracts favor U.S. airlines under "fly America" rules.

But code-shares qualify as "fly America" flights even if the trip is on a foreign airline that is totally outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration or the safety audit requirements written into Defense Department contracts. Swissair Flight 111, for instance, was popular with government

officials traveling to Geneva, the site of many international negotiations.

"The processes in place today were developed before code-sharing," said Mary Lou McHugh, assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for transportation policy. "They need to be adapted to reflect the new realities of an increasingly global airline industry."

Airlines have had to engage in a delicate dance with their foreign partners, seeking ways to bolster their level of training and oversight without being accused of safety imperialism.

Efforts to impose U.S. aviation standards on the rest of the world, including a congressional mandate to upgrade anti-terrorism standards, have been denounced by some foreign governments as arrogant interference in their affairs.

Some U.S. airlines have had to make odd arrangements with proud foreign carriers, such as when United Airlines agreed to provide pilot training to a foreign airline in exchange for jungle survival training for United personnel.

Michael Holland of the New York law firm of Condon & Forsyth LLP, which is

advising Delta and Swissair in crash litigation, said there was a major benefit in a safety reputation.

Airlines must understand that helping their partners reach a higher level of safety is "the progressive thing to do," even though some airline legal departments advise against it. "Morally, from the point of view of the aviation industry, it's a good thing," he said.

The Defense Department began auditing the safety of airlines that fly military personnel after a charter airline crash in Gander, Newfoundland, killed 256 soldiers in 1985. Two years ago, the Defense Department broached the idea of extending audits to foreign code-share airlines, but ran into stiff opposition from the State Department and the Transportation Department.

But the Defense Department apparently decided it had had enough. It was stuck in a position in which it gave thousands of military personnel no choice but to fly on foreign code-share partners that it could not audit, even though the tickets were being sold by U.S. airlines that were subject to audit.

BRIEFLY

North Koreans Vote In Local Elections

SEOUL — North Korea held its first local elections in five years Sunday in a move that experts said was expected to strengthen the power of its leader, Kim Jong Il.

Voters are electing elect about 20,000 deputies to serve four years on provincial, city and county councils, according to South Korean analysts.

The elections, the first since December 1993, proceeded smoothly "with all the voters turning out with high revolutionary enthusiasm," the North's Korean Central News Agency quoted election officials as saying. (AP)

Opposition Activist Freed in Singapore

SINGAPORE — The opposition politician Chee Soon Juan was freed Sunday after serving 12 days in prison over a public speech he made without a permit.

Mr. Chee made the speech Jan. 5 in Singapore's central business district, where he stood and read parts of the state's constitution. He was jailed after refusing to pay a \$1,470 fine.

Wong Tong Hoy, assistant secretary-general of Mr. Chee's Singapore Democratic Party, was also released. He was jailed for helping Mr. Chee make the speech by adjusting his microphone. (AP)

Dalai Lama Called Anti-China Plotter

BEIJING — Marking the March 10, 1959, anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, China's state-run media accused the Dalai Lama on Sunday of fomenting unrest and plotting with "anti-China forces in the world."

The Xinhu press agency described the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader as the "major source of social disturbances in Tibet."

The Dalai Lama, who was the Nobel Peace laureate in 1989, fled Tibet during the 1959 uprising but has remained the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists both in exile and in his homeland. (AP)

Sri Lankan Troops Seize Rebel Area

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan troops pursuing a new offensive in the north have captured a large amount of territory formerly held by Tamil Tiger rebels, the Defense Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry said in a statement that about 535 square kilometers (205 square miles) were captured in the operation, which was begun Thursday. It added that the forces were consolidating their hold in the area.

The statement did not mention casualties, and there was no comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. (Reuters)

For the Record

India and Pakistan have agreed to release a total of 61 nonpolitical prisoners in the next three weeks, 18 Indian nationals who are currently jailed in Pakistan and 43 Pakistanis held in India, in an attempt to improve relations. (AP)

EUROPE

At the Reichstag, History and Its Horrors Are Laid Bare

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — E. Kennedy, an American soldier, was here May 13, 1945.
So, too, a couple of days later, was one Lucia Petrova of the Red Army. Both wrote their names on the walls of the Reichstag just after its capture at the end of World War II, and today their jubilant graffiti are visible once again.
History — a staggering concentration of it — has been laid bare in the Reichstag before it becomes the seat of the German Parliament again next month, 66 years after a fire there snuffed up Hitler's vision of parliamentary democracy.
So bare lies the past, in fact, that even the vulgar anti-German insults of victorious Soviet soldiers, scrawled across the interior of the building in 1945, have been exposed by removing fake plasterboard walls put up to cover them in the 1960s.
"Our approach was radical, based in the view that the history of the building should not be sanitized," said Sir Norman Foster, the British architect who has rebuilt the Reichstag. "And the fact that Germany accepted this approach shows to me what an extraordinarily open and progressive society it has become."
Certainly, there is something "open" if not plain masochistic, about Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's going past Russian obscenities to

reach his blue-doored parliamentary office. Mr. Schröder's father died in 1944 on his way back from the Russian front.
The new glass dome on the building also speaks of postwar Germany's overriding preoccupation with transparency. It is an architectural coup that has become the symbol of the bold as L.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.
But openness is by no means the whole story. The return to the Reichstag, symbol of German democracy but also of disaster, has provided the occasion for a national debate of quintessentially German tortuousness.
Perhaps that was inevitable, for when Sir Norman hands over a symbolic Reichstag key to Wolfgang Thierse, the parliamentary speaker, on April 19, the gesture will at once open the new Parliament and usher in the new "Berlin Republic," rising where the ruins of Nazi Germany lay 54 years ago.
"I don't believe the nonsense about some evil spirit lurking there," said Michael Cullen, a Berlin-based historian. "Hitler only set foot in the place three times. But this is a new beginning for Germany, one decided without a plebiscite, so the tension between past and future is understandable."

Behind the debate lies an evident concern that bringing Parliament back to the massive gray stone edifice erected under Bismarck in 1894 may tempt the various ghosts — of imperialism, of fascism, of communism and of plain old tragedy — that have inhabited or surrounded the Reichstag in the last century.
The tension has taken several forms.
First, there was the problem of the eagle, symbol of Germany. A bird, in most places, is a bird. But not in Germany, where Hitler often spoke, as at Nuremberg in 1934, in front of towering, sharp-clawed eagles.
Should the eagle remain the pudgy thing, known affectionately as "the fat hen," that has long adorned the glass Bundestag building in Bonn, or should the eagle recover a touch of Prussian virility for the return to the Reichstag in Berlin?
After studying more than 235 eagles that have appeared in Prussian and German history, Sir Norman came up with a creature that was "leaner and keener." The bird, he said, had "a twinkle in its eye and was more dynamic, a touch playful, not in repose but in flight."
But after exhaustive debate, his proposal was rejected last year by the 35-member committee overseeing the reconstruction. The heirs to Lud-

wig Gies, the artist who designed the Bonn eagle, had objected.
So now a 8-by-6 meter (26-by-21-foot) eagle that is 60 percent bigger than the Bonn bird but of the same form, hangs in the 669-member chamber of the Reichstag. With public galleries protruding above maue seats seemingly lifted from the nearest office equipment store, the docile Rhineland eagle adds to a feeling of informal intimacy, the very opposite of Prussian militarism.
After the bird brouhaha came the Reich rumpus. "Reich" means empire. But there is no more German empire. So should the Reichstag change its name to Bundestag, as Mr. Thierse has suggested? Or should it become the Plenarbereich (Plenary Area), as several other members of Parliament have argued? Or perhaps the Reichstagsgebäude (Reichstag building)?
Referring to the Finance Ministry's imminent move from Bonn to a Berlin building that was once the Nazi-era Air Ministry, Werner Schulz of the Green Party said: "Of course the Reichstag's name should be changed. Who would call the new Finance Ministry the Reichluftfahrtministerium?"
Who indeed? But "Reichstag" appears likely to stick, as it has through an extraordinary history. This has included being a center of war propaganda during World War I, the Parliament of the Weimar Republic and the site of a Nazi exhibition in 1938 on "The Eternal Jew."

A glass dome speaks of a postwar preoccupation with transparency.



Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer talking Sunday with a Greens party spokeswoman, Antje Radcke, center, and Gunda Roedel, a party co-leader, during the second day of the movement's congress in Erfurt.

German Greens in Crisis

Following String of Failures in Government, Fischer Calls for Party Reforms at Congress

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ERFURT, Germany — Germany's Greens, facing a crisis over their performance in government, were locked in a power struggle Sunday at a congress that had been aimed at rallying the demoralized ecologists.
Speculation grew that Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer would try to take control of the party, which has seen its main policy commitments diluted or delayed by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats.
The struggle stifled a debate over how the Greens could update their traditional concerns of pacifism, ecology and civil rights.
Young Germans are turning away from the party's graying anti-establishment ideals, which do not quite address their top concerns, while loyal founding members question whether compromising on party goals, such as phasing out nuclear energy, are a price worth paying for influential government posts.
At a weekend convention that ended Sunday, Greens leaders warned their party that it faced a slow death unless it renewed its image and ideas.

"We have become boring in our visions, and we have great difficulties making practical politics," said Mr. Fischer, the chief strategist behind the Greens' rise to power.
Founded in 1980 by anti-nuclear activists, environmentalists and feminists, the Greens struggled over the weekend with how to revamp their party without becoming too much like the others.
"Our success depends on our being able to stand up for our goals, even if we do make compromises," said Kerstin Mueller, the leading Greens lawmaker.
Taking issue with suggestions that German voters no longer cared about Green issues, Mr. Fischer said the problem lay more with the party's arcane internal structures, which he said were weakening the ecologists in policy battles with Mr. Schröder.
"We have to combine our visions with what it is actually possible to achieve," he told 700 delegates at the congress in the eastern city of Erfurt. "We have to learn how to govern and how to go out and campaign."
The Greens have never had one

overall leadership function. Party officials are chosen according to quotas for men and women, East and West Germans, moderates and radicals.
Mr. Fischer rejected as nonsense a magazine report that he and other

leading moderates would mount a bid to take full control of the party and he sought to reassure left-wingers that he was not against the party's gender quota.
But leading radicals were not con-

vinced. "This makes me absolutely mad," Kerstin Mueller, parliamentary whip, said Saturday to long applause. "We all know that when the Greens talk of structure reform, it's all about a battle for power." (Reuters, AP)

Moscow Is Evacuating Last Aides in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Russia was evacuating its last official representatives from the breakaway region of Chechnya on Sunday after the kidnapping of a high-ranking Russian officer, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.
He said staff members representing the Russian president and government were scheduled to leave at midday as a precaution, after the Interior Ministry's representative in Chechnya, General Major Gennadi Shpigun, was grabbed on Friday.
Chechnya has been plagued by lawlessness since its separatist leadership scaled a peace accord with Moscow more than two years ago, under which Russia pulled its troops out of the region.
Moscow says Chechnya remains part of Russia but the southern region has achieved de facto independence. (Reuters)

Pope Beatifies 10 More For Possible Sainthood

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II, already credited for more than half of the beatifications performed in the last 400 years, added 10 more people Sunday to the church's list of potential saints.
Of the 1,611 faithful beatified since 1605, when the Vatican codified the church's last formal step before sainthood, 819 of them have been accorded the honor by this Pope, whose papacy began in 1978. John Paul has also named 276 saints.
Of the 10 names added to the church's roll call of the blessed, 8 of them were men who died for their faith during the Spanish Civil War.
Beatification, though, is not a guarantee of sainthood. While one miracle is required to be beatified, a second one is needed for a person to be named a saint. (AP)

Local Austrian Voting May Favor a Rightist

VIENNA — Austrians began voting Sunday in three provincial elections that could rock the unstable grand coalition in Vienna and provoke an early general election.
A total of 1.23 million people, or more than a fifth of the voting population, are eligible to vote for the regional parliaments of Salzburg, Tyrol and Carinthia.
With the conservative People's Party, led by Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schüssel, expected to remain in power in Tyrol and Salzburg, the focus is clearly on Carinthia.
Polls suggest the far-right Freedom Party of populist Jörg Haider will emerge as the strongest force there. (Reuters)

Israelis Vie on Quitting Lebanon

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — The Labor Party's candidate for prime minister in the coming elections, Ehud Barak, has succeeded in inserting new momentum into the volatile, personality-based election campaign by introducing an actual issue into the race — whether, and how soon, Israelis troops should withdraw from what is called the security zone along the border in southern Lebanon.
At Mr. Barak's initiative, bringing the boys home from the growingly dangerous zone emerged as the all-Israeli issue of the campaign, after a rapid growth of the conflict.
One after another, each of the candidates, all of whom have played a direct role in keeping the Israeli military entrenched in the Lebanese border zone, proclaimed that he would move out the army soonest, or most safely.
Opinion polls showed that most Israelis who were surveyed reacted suspiciously to the candidates, seeing their promises as mostly election gimmickry, attempts to capitalize on the grief that followed the deaths of seven Israelis in southern Lebanon within a week.
"The leaders of Israel's major parties are now misleading an entire people, allowing themselves to play with the public's emotions on a life-and-death matter," Uzi Benziman, a columnist for the leading newspaper Ha'aretz, said Friday.
Nonetheless, Mr. Barak ignited a genuinely substantive debate on the longstanding Israeli military presence in Lebanon that pointed up not only differences between the candidates but also disagreements within the ranks of the military as well.
It began when Mr. Barak, a former

general, promised a week ago that if he were elected he would manage to withdraw the army in a year.
"I promise you that if we create the next government we will be out of Lebanon by June 2000, with security assurances, and deep into talks with Syria," Mr. Barak said.
Yitzhak Mordechai, the Center Party candidate and another former general, followed suit, but he went even further toward meeting public opinion, saying

A rising death toll in the border zone has made it a key issue in coming elections.

that he would have the troops out even sooner.
Another former general, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, went further. He proposed that there should be a delay in the election, scheduled for May 17, and the formation of an emergency unity government to bring the troops home even sooner than proposed by the election rivals.
It was unclear whether Mr. Sharon had floated a trial balloon with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's consent, or perhaps had acted on his own.
Mr. Netanyahu has railed against the idea of setting deadlines.
All three candidates, and almost everyone in Israel, want to see the troops come home after 17 years of fighting a low-level war against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, guerrillas in Lebanon.
All three candidates say they believe that Syria controls Hezbollah and that Syria wants the Golan Heights returned in exchange for ending the guerrillas' fight against Israel. All three say a withdrawal from Lebanon has to involve neighboring Syria.

But in contrast to Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Barak and Mr. Mordechai pledge to restart negotiations with Syria as an integral part of a withdrawal plan. They are buoyed by opinion polls, which consistently show that most Israelis support returning part of the Golan Heights to Syria to bring about peace.
"If the Syrians see that they are up against an honest and truthful negotiator who is capable of making decisions and carrying them out, we will be able to carry out speedy negotiations," Mr. Mordechai said in a policy statement printed on Friday in Yedioth Ahro-noth. "I can reveal here that had we carried out the Wye agreements, the Syrians, with American support, would have been ready to restart negotiations."
Mr. Mordechai was referring to the land-for-security peace pact negotiated in Wye, Maryland, in October, before he was dismissed as defense minister.
The agreement has been frozen by the Netanyahu government, which says the Palestinians are not complying.
Rather than Damascus, Mr. Netanyahu prefers to deal with Beirut, seeking Lebanese cooperation for the secure withdrawal of Israeli troops.
"The ball is now in the Lebanese court," Mr. Netanyahu wrote in a policy statement in Yedioth Ahro-noth.
None of the candidates advocates a unilateral withdrawal, a move supported by a substantial minority of Israelis who say a decisive action has to be taken to extricate Israel from a quagmire.
The candidates accept the Israeli Army's position — that such a withdrawal would serve to pull the fighting into northern Israel, because Hezbollah does not recognize the present border and has set its sights on the Galilee region of Israel as well.

British Balloon's Journey Ends in the Pacific

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Two British balloonists were safely rescued Sunday after splashing into the Pacific Ocean near Japan, ending their attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the globe in a hot-air balloon.
The British Cable and Wireless balloon dropped into ocean at 1:04 P.M., 200 miles (125 kilometers) off the coast of central Japan, according to an official from Japan's Maritime Safety Agency.
Speaking at a news conference after their rescue, the balloonists — Andy Elson, 55, and Colin Prescott, 48 — said they were forced down because of bad weather.

"I don't think we have failed," Mr. Elson said. "We have just found another way that doesn't work."
He added: "We have learned a lot of lessons from this. Maybe one of the lessons is that without the cooperation of the Chinese, it is not possible in the northern hemisphere."
But when Chinese aviation authorities refused permission for any British-registered balloons to enter their airspace, the balloonists were forced to track to the south, slowing their progress and complicating their navigation. The end came after cloud cover caused the solar batteries needed to operate the balloon's kerosene burners to run down.

Trying to get above the cloud, they picked up a lot of snow and ice on the outside of the balloon, forcing them to ditch.
The balloon had been in the air since taking off from southern Spain on Feb. 17, setting a record for longest time airborne. It had covered more than half of the 18,000-mile planned journey.
A rival British-Swiss duo aboard the Switzerland-based Breitling Orbiter 3 crossed over Saudi Arabia early Sunday at 17,000 feet (5,600 meters), heading southeast of Mecca at 55 miles per hour (90 kilometers per hour). That team has covered more than 4,000 miles and took off Monday. (AP, Reuters)

Cindy Crawford's Choice



Constellation
Stainless steel with diamond-set bezel.
OMEGA — Swiss made since 1848.

Omega -- my choice Cindy Crawford

Ω
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INTERNATIONAL

With Eye on Post-Saddam Iraq, U.S. Pursues Policy of Bombs and Subversion

By Steven Lee Myers
and Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — This week, an American diplomat named Frank Ricciardone will take on a new job. His mission is as simple as it is difficult: unify the fractured Iraqi opposition, topple Saddam Hussein and build a democratic nation from the ruins.

The Clinton administration has been pursuing the same goal on three tracks: bombing Iraq in a slow-motion war, supporting the opposition with words and ideas, plotting to subvert the soldiers and spies that support the Iraqi leader.

Toward that end, the United States has been striking Iraq from the air for 10 weeks now, and last week American planes loosed the biggest barrage of bombs since December.

The jets have struck at least 104 targets, 4 more than they hit during the major American and British barrage over four days last year, damaging or destroying surface-to-air missile sites, anti-aircraft artillery, radar towers and communications centers. In a report to Congress on

Wednesday, President Bill Clinton said Iraq's air defenses had been "degraded substantially."

"What we are working to do is to help create the political and military conditions that will permit a successful change of the regime," said Walter Slocombe, undersecretary of defense.

But Pentagon officials are among the first to acknowledge that bombs alone cannot topple Mr. Saddam.

The American military commander in the Gulf region has said repeatedly that the task of creating a legitimate alternative to Mr. Saddam appears impossible for now, given the disunity of the opposition.

For now, the hope for a coup rests on the impact of the tons of bombs falling on Iraqi military sites. But allies of the United States in the region, especially Saudi Arabia and Turkey, are increasingly impatient with the American program of bombs and bombast.

There has been no clear evidence so far that the bombings have eroded Mr. Saddam's power structure, best envisioned as a pyramid of perhaps 100 trusted men, sitting atop half a million soldiers, spies and political operatives.

Despite this, Mr. Ricciardone, named to the newly created position of policy coordinator, has said he envisions a sudden demise for the regime in Iraq, a country he knows.

In the mid-1980s, he helped try to normalize relations between the United States and Iraq. He was second-in-command of the shuttered American Embassy after the 1991 Gulf war, working out of Amman, Jordan, and London.

He is one among many in the administration who sees political thunderclouds gathering over Mr. Saddam, though no one will predict when a storm might occur.

"Most likely, there will be a military coup," he said last week in an interview with a newspaper in Ankara. "It will be very sudden and without warning."

The president's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, said that Mr. Saddam's repeated efforts to shoot down American or British jets over Iraq showed his weakness, not his strength. "His ineffectiveness in stopping us has undercut him to some degree," Mr. Berger said in an interview. The challenges are meant to demonstrate his power, he added. "Instead he looks

ineffectual."

A senior administration official said that Mr. Saddam is "nervous and off-balance." Another official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "We think we see Mr. Saddam flailing. We are working toward a slow whittling-down of his power, his authority and his nerves. There are reports of military guys perhaps not following orders."

The Clinton administration has not spent a penny of a \$97 million fund created by Congress to finance Iraqi opposition, an indication of its thinking about the likelihood of success.

There is understandably some revulsion in the Arab world about a superpower plotting insurrections in the region. Few in the administration have any idea who or what could succeed Mr. Saddam, except perhaps chaos.

In part because of these sensitivities, the administration has tried to draw as little attention as possible to the air strikes. On Feb. 26, in a major foreign policy speech nearly 7,000 words long, Mr. Clinton devoted one sentence to Iraq and said nothing about the bombing.

The Pentagon, too, is giving out less and less

information about the bombing, withholding the familiar grainy videos of attacks and declining to discuss the damage in detail.

The Pentagon says it is trying to balance risks against rewards.

The delicacy of that balance was clear last week when American jets attacked two radio towers that the Pentagon said relayed messages to Iraqi air defenses but that also, it turned out, controlled the flow of oil through Iraq's pipeline to Turkey.

On Friday, Defense Secretary William Cohen indicated publicly that the strikes on the towers were a mistake. By disrupting the UN program that allows Iraq to sell oil for food and medicine, the United States had handed Iraq a public relations victory, officials said, creating sympathy for ordinary Iraqis.

"It's really one of those traps Saddam's trying to draw us into," an official said.

The biggest trap would be losing an American pilot. The Pentagon has increased the helicopter-borne emergency rescue teams in the region, standing by to dart into Iraq should a plane go down.

A Kosovo Guerrilla Chief Lauds Allies' Peace Plan, But Doesn't Vow to Sign

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TIRANA, Albania — A top Kosovo Liberation Army representative spoke favorably Sunday of a peace deal for the province but was noncommittal about whether the rebels were about to commit to it.

Hashim Thaci, head of the ethnic Albanian delegation at the recent peace talks in France, said only that there had been significant progress toward signing the agreement backed by NATO.

"The project is still being discussed by the Kosovo people, the students and the workers," Mr. Thaci said during a visit to the Albanian capital, Tirana. "The agreement process has entered a progress phase and has taken a very positive direction."

He said that the Kosovo Albanians would insist on NATO troops in Kosovo if the agreement was signed, but that the KLA should retain its status as a defensive force.

The plan calls for the rebels to turn in their weapons and become part of an ethnic Albanian police force.

Mr. Thaci reiterated the Kosovo Albanians' intention to return to France for the renewal of talks on March 15.

KLA leaders failed to meet on Sunday as expected but are now likely to meet early Monday to discuss the Western peace plan, Western sources said.

A Western diplomat, monitoring the talks, said earlier that they were prepared for delays and surprises.

"If the deliberations drag out or there is a negative vote we'll deal with it somehow, but we want to get the Kosovo Albanians signed up for the deal so we can put the pressure squarely on the Serbs."

The "deal" is an 83-page document that ethnic Albanian and Serbian peace delegates reviewed, but failed to accept at 17 days of talks in Rambouillet, France.

Kosovo, which is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, would become an autonomous province of Serbia under the plan. About 28,000 NATO ground forces would enter the province to implement the accord.

The special U.S. peace envoy, Christopher Hill, will travel to Kosovo on Monday to meet guerrilla leaders, keeping up American pressure on the ethnic Albanians to sign a deal that grants them less than the full independence they have been fighting for. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

Albright's Efforts Defended

Jane Perlez of The New York Times

reported earlier from London.

Strung by press criticism in the United States and in Europe of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's handling of the Kosovo peace effort, her closest aide, James Rubin, volunteered a series of statements defending Mrs. Albright to reporters flying with her from Indonesia to London.

Mr. Rubin acknowledged that the administration had "misjudged" how easy it would be to win the approval of the ethnic Albanians at Rambouillet, where the peace talks were suspended without agreement.

He insisted that Mrs. Albright had been right to push ahead despite what he called the "hard work" and too many players.

"The fact that the secretary of state is not able to fully obtain an agreement in a relatively short number of days for the people who've been fighting — violently for many months and politically for many years — shouldn't be considered a mistake by the United States," Mr. Rubin said.

The administration was likely to send an American envoy, probably Richard Holbrooke, to see President Milosevic in the coming week, officials said. The timing and defined purpose of such a trip remain unclear.

In the usual tangled pattern of joint American-European diplomacy toward Mr. Milosevic, the European nations of the Contact Group — Britain, France, Italy and Germany — were unhappy about the prospect of Mr. Holbrooke visiting Mr. Milosevic, diplomats said.

A spokesman for Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, one of three negotiators at the Kosovo peace talks, said the Europeans thought that Mr. Holbrooke "could complicate things if he started open negotiations" with Mr. Milosevic at this time on the peace plan.

Mr. Petritsch worked for months with the American envoy, Mr. Hill, to draft the plan.

The Europeans, the spokesman said, would prefer that Mr. Holbrooke concentrate on the Yugoslav leader's violations of the agreement announced last October.

Mr. Holbrooke personally negotiated that agreement, which called for a substantial reduction of Mr. Milosevic's security troops in Kosovo.



Swedish soldiers in the Bosnia peace force monitoring traffic and looking for arms Sunday in the city of Tuzla.

Rebels Blamed for 3 Americans' Deaths

By Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Marxist guerrillas murdered three kidnapped American humanitarian workers in Colombia on orders from a senior rebel commander, according to Colombian and U.S. officials.

Officials in both countries said the accusation was based not only on witness accounts at the time the three were seized Feb. 25 in Arauca Province near the Venezuelan border but also on electronic intercepts of rebel conversations, including a recording of the order to execute them.

The bodies of Ingrid Washinawotok, Terence Freitas and Lahe'ena' Gay were found Thursday night on the Venezuelan side of the Arauca River, which separates Venezuela and Colombia.

All were shot with 9mm weapons. The two women were shot four times each, in the face and chest, and Mr. Freitas was shot six times, Colombian police said. The three, who had been working with the indigenous U'wa people, had been blindfolded and their hands had been tied behind their backs.

Officials blamed the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the largest guerrilla organization in

Colombia, for the murders. The group often kidnaps foreigners to raise funds but seldom executes its captives.

The insurgents customarily deny actions they are not responsible for. They have not yet commented on the murders.

Late last year the rebels, who have been battling the government for 34 years, held their first talks with U.S. officials as part of an effort to repair their international image.

The group's reputation has been hurt by the fact that it receives millions of dollars a year for protecting cocaine and heroin traffickers who operate in different parts of the country.

The December talks with U.S. officials were aimed at trying to persuade the United States that the group could be trusted as it began peace negotiations with the government. Now, those hopes seem shattered and the peace process, already bogged down, appears close to unraveling.

On Friday night, a U.S. State Department spokesman, Lee McClelleny, condemned the guerrillas for the murders, which he called a barbaric terrorist act.

State Department officials had come under congressional fire for holding the talks because the guerrilla organization has been formally designated a terrorist

organization by the U.S. government.

Colombian officials also condemned the guerrillas and said the peace process, the centerpiece of President Andres Pastana's seven-month-old government, was close to being canceled. One official called the murders "not only brutal, but really, really dumb."

U.S. and Colombian officials said that speculation about who was responsible for the murders initially centered on rightist paramilitary groups, who more routinely kill hostages, or drug traffickers who operate in the area.

But Colombian intelligence officials, in telephone interviews, said the police had intercepted two cellular phone conversations between the guerrillas of the organization's 45th Front — which was holding the three — and German Briceno, the front commander and brother of Jorge Briceno, the guerrillas' leading military strategist.

The 45th Front has been identified as one of the groups most closely tied to drug trafficking.

In one conversation, the sources said, Mr. Briceno was surprised to learn that two women were being held. He said he had thought they were all men. After asking their ages, Mr. Briceno ordered his troops to "take them over to the other side of the river and burn them," a common phrase for killing.

BRIEFLY

U.S. to Sell Missiles To Saudi Arabia

RIYADH — William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary, told Saudi Arabia on Sunday that Washington would sell the kingdom advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles to improve Saudi security in the Gulf.

Mr. Cohen agreed at a meeting with Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi defense minister, to increase joint army training exercises in the kingdom and to study jointly the threat from some chemical and biological weapons, a senior U.S. official said.

Israel already has such missiles and Washington has approved their sale to the United Arab Emirates. Bahrain will also get them, Mr. Cohen said. (Reuters)

Haitians Drown After Boats Capsize

MIAMI — Two boats carrying as many as 43 Haitians in an apparent bid to smuggle them into the United States sank off the South Florida coast, and rescuers found only three survivors.

The three men rescued Saturday in the choppy Atlantic waters off West Palm Beach told U.S. Border Patrol officers that one boat — carrying 18 Haitians — broke down and that the other boat — carrying 18 to 25 more people — approached it to help. Both boats then went under, the survivors said.

"Forty are presumed dead or drowned," said Art Bullock, a Border Patrol officer in West Palm Beach.

The Coast Guard called off its search for survivors early Sunday. (AP)

UN's Nobel Money To Fund Memorial

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Almost 11 years after winning the Nobel Peace Prize for its peace-keeping efforts in trouble spots around the world, the United Nations has decided to spend the money on a monument commemorating all peacekeepers who lose their lives on duty.

The UN invited Sweden and Norway to help select a design and tentatively plans to erect the memorial on the esplanade outside the visitors' entrance to its New York headquarters, said an assistant secretary-general, Alvaro de Soto. (NYT)

Germany Drops Farm Budget Demand

Agence France-Presse

BONN — Germany is giving up its insistence on "co-financing" in an overhaul of the European Union's agricultural budget, a government spokeswoman said Sunday.

In bowing to French opposition to the plan, which would have required individual governments to pick up part of the tab for farm subsidies, the German decision paved the way for progress in talks on reforms of the Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

Charlinda Reinhardt, the spokeswoman, said that the concept of co-financing "was not politically negotiable" and that instead, "it was decided with our partners to work on other concepts to limit expenses."

Bonn and Paris have been at loggerheads over the agriculture reforms

and, in turn, a broader reform package, Agenda 2000, designed to prepare the EU for expansion into Eastern Europe.

Germany had for weeks infuriated its closest ally by refusing to drop proposals under which part of the Common Agricultural Policy budget would be paid from national rather than European coffers. Bonn had viewed the co-financing plan as a key element in securing a significant reduction in its 11 billion euro (\$12 billion) net contribution to the EU budget.

But even a relatively small degree of co-financing would have added billions to public spending in France, the EU's biggest agriculture producer.

Miss Reinhardt denied media reports that there were splits within the German government on the Agenda 2000 negotiating strategy, and in particular on

reform of EU agricultural policy.

"This was not the case," she said.

On Thursday, Agriculture Minister Karl-Heinz Funke told his French counterpart, Jean Glavany, that the issue of co-financing was no longer an option, and Bodo Hombach, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's chief of staff, said the same day that Germany had "little chance of imposing co-financing."

But on Friday, Miss Reinhardt said national co-financing was still on the agenda. The media and diplomatic circles in Bonn jumped on the apparent discrepancy.

Germany, which holds the rotating presidency of the Union, wants to resolve the agriculture-reform dispute so as to reach an overall agreement on Agenda 2000 in time for an EU summit meeting in Berlin on March 24-25.

Clinton Visit Offers Hope for Central America

By Mireya Navarro
New York Times Service

SAN SALVADOR — When President Bill Clinton visits Central America this week, he will see a region ravaged by one tragedy after another over the past few decades and, more often than not, forgotten in its intervals of renewal.

The president is to open a four-day visit to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala on Monday, the day after Salvadorans vote on a new president and further cement a remarkable democratic transformation after 12 years of civil war that left more than 70,000 people dead.

Anne Patterson, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, said: "It's almost a miracle what's happened here."

But after the clamor of the 1980s, when the region's upheavals dominated U.S. foreign policy, that change has

occurred almost silently. It has taken last year's devastating Hurricane Mitch to refocus attention here.

With this visit, many Central American experts agree, Mr. Clinton has a chance to engage the region once again — with increased aid, trade preferences and protected status for Central American immigrants, for example — and to nurture democracies that emerged only recently from armed conflicts and are still fragile.

Skating Injury Keeps Hillary Clinton at Home

Hillary Rodham Clinton will not accompany the president to Central America this week because she has aggravated a back injury she suffered skiing, Reuters reported Sunday from Washington. Marsha Berry, Mrs. Clinton's spokeswoman, said: "She had a little bit of a mishap skiing last weekend and I think trying to do too much this week didn't help it."

Law Is Voided On Rape Suits

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A federal law that gave victims of rape and domestic violence the right to sue their attackers for violating their civil rights is unconstitutional, a U.S. appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, has ruled.

The court's 7-to-4 decision invalidates a key section of the Violence Against Women Act, a broad-based congressional response to domestic violence that also includes financing funding for battered women's programs and interstate enforcement of protective orders.

The ruling means that in states under the court's jurisdiction — Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and the Carolinas — victims of rape and domestic violence will only be allowed to sue under state tort laws. The court found that the Constitution does not give Congress the power to legislate in this area because the problem is not related to interstate commerce.

Legal analysts said the case was likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, where it could become a vehicle for further limiting Congress's ability to pass legislation in areas where states also have authority.

Women's groups criticized the decision Friday by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of Christy Brzonkala, a former Virginia Tech student who filed a federal lawsuit against two football players who she said had raped her.

ITALY: If Pilot Wasn't at Fault, Who Was?

Continued from Page 1

the crew's squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Muegge. One other officer received a letter of reprimand, effectively ending his career.

Captain Ashby still faces a court-martial for obstruction of justice, a charge that stems from the removal of a videotape, which could be valuable evidence, from the plane after landing.

An exhausted Captain Ashby was circumspect in his criticism of the Marine Corps during an interview. "I'll always say that I love the Marine Corps for what it is, and what it stands for," he said.

But the captain admitted to feeling like a scapegoat, and he and his attorneys said problems in preparations for the flight — including a flawed map and incorrect information about altitude and speed restrictions — sent his EA-6B Prowler flying up the valley, in Captain Ashby's words, at the "wrong place and the wrong time."

One simple step that could have prevented the accident, he added, would have been "making sure everybody knows the rules for flying in a foreign country."

Members of Captain Ashby's Prowler squadron, although they had been in Italy for nearly six months at the time of the February 1998 accident, said they were unaware of Italian regulations that prohibited jets from flying below 2,000 feet in the region, an altitude that would have kept Captain Ashby's jet far above the ski-lift cable, which was hit at a height of about 360 feet (about 110 meters).

The court proceedings here and an earlier investigation into the accident revealed a host of such failures, both by the Marine Corps and by other branches of the armed services.

Other problems included the widely publicized failure to include the cableway on the map provided to the crew, poor communication between the U.S. Air Force and the Marine Corps, including a failure to relay critical information that could have prevented the accident, and flawed safety equipment aboard the aircraft.

The disaster demonstrated that, despite the Pentagon's emphasis in recent years on improving joint operations between military services, serious problems still exist.

"This is a classic example," said Captain Ashby's attorney, Frank Spinner, a former air force officer. "The services have different mind-sets and different operating procedures."

Ironically, faulty communication between the army and the air force also played a key role in the accidental shooting down in 1994 of two U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters by air force F-15s over northern Iraq.

Among the problems that emerged from the gondola investigation and subsequent trial:

• The Marine Corps squadron was largely unaware of low-level airspace restrictions, even though the air force gave the information to the squadron.

• The radar altimeter on the Prowler involved in the accident often failed. Records show that in five months before the accident, the radar altimeter, which warns if the jet flies too low, had been checked for malfunctions 12 times.

• The training given Captain Ashby and other Marine aviators was not good enough for flying low-level routes in mountainous regions, according to tests.

Despite outrage in Italy and elsewhere in the world, the accident was popular among Marines at this base.

Travel

QUARTERLY



A Buddhist monk looking out of a temple in Luang Prabang. Monks collect alms in the street every day at dawn.

Ancient City, New Vistas

Former Capital of Laos Begins to Draw Tourists

By Thomas Crampton

LUANG PRABANG, Laos — Nestled among hazy hills at a slow bend in the Mekong River, the former royal capital of Laos, Luang Prabang, has long been a remote preserve of old Indochina.

Potholes and highway bandits discouraged road travel to the city, while access by air required a stopover in the Laotian capital, Vientiane, not to mention the lengthy and expensive visa procedures just to get into the country.

In the last year, however, this riverside city of royal palaces, golden temples and colonial-era buildings that somehow managed to survive the ravages of war and communism has been firmly placed on the tourist map, while nonetheless retaining the charm and relaxing demeanor that makes it one of the most rewarding cultural destinations in Southeast Asia.

Lao Aviation has begun in the last several months to fly direct from northern Thailand twice a week, the airport offers \$30 visas on arrival and the city's infrastructure for visitors has been geared up for a two-year tourism promotional effort. In the last few months, tour boats have even begun plying the Mekong River from Thailand, an ideal way to enter Laos and approach the city.

As a result, the city's colonial-style luxury hotels were booked solid through the cool season, (December to February) and the number of budget guest houses has tripled to about 30 in the last year. Sidewalk tables at the French restaurants are packed, and vibrant Laotian textiles are sold from the once-empty shops that line the main street.

Declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations in

1995, just as the country's isolationist Communist government started to crack open the door to tourists and market economics, Luang Prabang presented conservationists with an almost unique opportunity to rescue an Asian city built of wood from the tidal wave of poured concrete that has enveloped much of the region's architecture.

A brisk walk up the steep hill to the central temple, the Phousi, reveals the city's palm-fringed vista of more than a thousand low wooden buildings concentrated on a 250-meter wide peninsula that runs for less than a kilometer.

The best way to visit the city is to start near the tip of the peninsula at the magnificent gold-leafed Xiang Tong temple and meander on foot or rented bicycle through the city's many narrow streets.

BRUSHING aside banana leaves and peering over fences made of woven bamboo reveals houses and a lifestyle that seem little touched by the late 20th century. This apparently unchanged way of life is as great an appeal as the city's architecture.

Virtually every temple seems to have sheds for lengthy ceremonial teak racing boats and storerooms filled with masks and other elaborately decorated items used to celebrate festivals.

But even outside of the major annual festivals, it is easy to partake in the rituals of Luang Prabang. Each day at dawn, to the sound of the city's many roosters, thousands of barefoot Buddhist monks can be seen shuffling silently through the streets collecting alms.

Circulating in single file, broken into groups of about 20,

See LAOS, Page 9

Are Airline Alliances Passenger-Unfriendly?

By Roger Collis

IMAGINE arriving at the airport to find that instead of the familiar airline check-in desks, there is just one long row of desks displaying the logo Star Alliance. At other airports, you might have a choice of Oneworld or Atlantic Excellence. But this is Hamburg, a Star Alliance hub.

Your ticket reads: Hamburg-Copenhagen-New York-Toronto-Frankfurt-Hamburg. You have no idea on which airline you will be flying in these sectors—perhaps Lufthansa, SAS, United, or Air Canada. You can expect the same standards of service and comfort, similar seating, food and in-flight entertainment. You will earn

double miles because the entire journey is with Star Alliance partners, and diamond membership of the Star Alliance frequent-flyer program will give you the run of VIP lounges along the way. But don't expect any price breaks because there is no competition on the route you are traveling.

This scenario may be only slightly futuristic as airlines carve up the skies into four major alliances, accounting for more than 60 percent of world airline traffic: Star Alliance; Oneworld; Atlantic Excellence; and KLM-Northwest-Continental Airlines.

Some insiders predict that, in 5 to 10 years time, we may end up with half a dozen global airlines, formed from current alliances. In addition, there may be around 400 satellite or regional carriers, along with independent niche

players offering competition on certain regional and international routes.

The rationale for the new global airline networks is to prevent airlines losing passengers—and profit—as people change carriers to reach their final destination.

Global airline cooperation typically involves "code-sharing," a system whereby airlines agree to use the same "designator code," or flight number, for a flight or series of connecting flights in order to attract more business by extending their networks through partner carriers.

Airlines sometimes sell blocks of seats under their own code in another airline's cabin. Such is the case with Continental Airlines which sells its own tickets on Virgin Atlantic flights from Heathrow to Miami, and with Sabena which sells seats

on Virgin Express flights between Brussels and Heathrow. You never know whether the airline you booked on is the one you will actually fly.

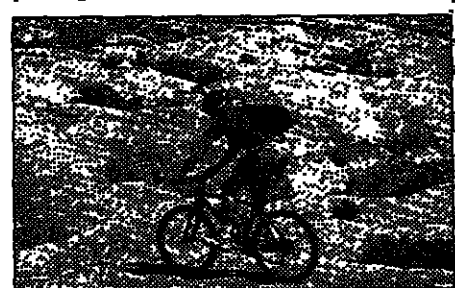
The Star Alliance is the most formally structured global network, with a management board, integrated check-ins and sales forces, coordinated scheduling and frequent-flyer programs. It consists of Air Canada, Lufthansa, SAS, Thai Airlines, United Airlines, Varig, Air New Zealand and Ansett. All Nippon Airlines is due to join in October. It claims to serve about 800 destinations around the world.

Oneworld is a looser alliance that was formed in February. It is led by American Airlines and British Airways along with Canadian Airlines,

See ALLIANCES, Page 8

INSIDE

The Savvy Traveler gives tips on saving up to 80 percent on full-fare air tickets. Page 8.
The Healthy Traveler looks at why air passengers find cabin air so stuffy. Page 8.



Cycling networks that span continents are being set up for 'cyclotourists.' Page 10

DISCOVER THE MANY HIDDEN FACES OF INDOCHINA

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No-Frills Options Grow

Debonair, which started services from Luton about the same time as EasyJet, is more low-frills than no-frills with a fleet of 14 planes. It has its own small terminal at Luton and offers in-flight coffee, soft drinks and snacks and more leg room than most national carriers. From Luton, you can fly to Paris, Barcelona, Nice, Madrid, Dusseldorf, Munich, and between Munich and Barcelona.

Cabin Air Hasn't Cleared

ROBIN HERMAN is a journalist based in Paris.

Are Alliances User-Unfriendly?

ROGER COLLIS writes *The Frequent Traveler* column for the *International Herald Tribune*.



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Travel

Potpourri Of Charm And Rich Heritage



An old hill tribe woman visiting Luang Prabang.

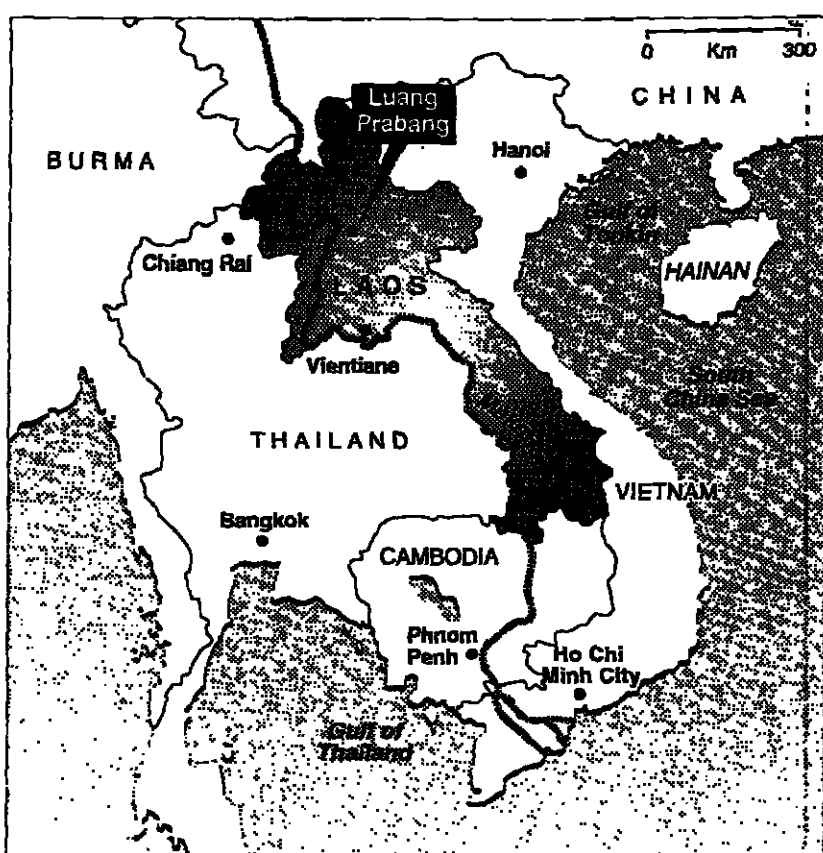


Mothers meeting near the central market in Luang Prabang.



Workers pushing a cement mixer past one of the city's traditional wooden houses.

The sun setting on the Mekong River; tour boats now come from Thailand to enter Laos and cruise up to Luang Prabang.



When to go:

Luang Prabang is best visited at the height of the dry season or during one of the country's traditional holidays, such as the September boat races or the Lao New Year in mid-April. The month of March should be avoided since slash-and-burn agriculture in the area brings down a heavy pall of smoke on the city.

Getting there:

The journey to Luang Prabang requires transport that may make some travelers think twice before booking a holiday. Lao Aviation operates an aging fleet of Chinese propeller aircraft considered too dangerous for travel by staff at the United Nations and many embassies. The Lao capital, Vientiane, can also be reached on Thai Airways International's daily flights from Bangkok or by land from Thailand. Getting to Luang Prabang by car, however, requires driving on a road once known for occasional robberies. Perhaps the ideal way to arrive in Luang Prabang is to fly to Chiang Rai, northern Thailand, and ride a boat for two days downstream on the Mekong River.

Where to stay:

The best places both to spend the evening and stay in Luang Prabang are the handful of colonial-style hotels. Many of them have terraces or verandas and all cost around \$50 a night for a room. Near the tip of the peninsula is the Auberge Calao (tel. 856-71-212-100), the restored 19th-century headquarters of a Chinese-Portuguese trading company, and the Villa Santi (tel. 856-71-212-267), the former residence of a princess that has been fixed up by her descendants. The Hotel Souvannaphoum (tel. 856-71-212-200), named for the prince who owned it as a palace, is a little further into town. The more modern Phou Vao Hotel (tel. 856-71-212-194), with landscaped gardens and a swimming pool, is just outside town.

Guidebooks:

The better ones are those published by Lonely Planet and Footprint Handbooks. The London-based Rough Guides will also soon publish a guide to Laos with a large section dedicated to Luang Prabang.

Ancient City and New Vistas

Continued from Page 7

the saffron-clad monks receive donations of steaming sticky rice and sweet cakes wrapped in banana leaves from residents who kneel on mats outside their homes. They are joined by the occasional tourist.

But the hurried traveler who tries to see and do all of Luang Prabang will miss out on the city's calm silence, smell of grass and human peace of life.

"I have been here for four days and have not yet even managed to send a single postcard," said one tourist while relaxing at a sidewalk café along the main street.

WITH financial support and encouragement from the country's former colonial ruler, France, the Lao government has mapped, photographed, classified and enacted strict regulations to protect the thousand or so wooden buildings in the central part of the city.

Funds from France to preserve the city multiplied this year to several million dollars from a few hundred thousand, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general who now heads the French cultural promotion organization Francophonie, has said he will help lead appeals to find further international support for the conservation project.

Already every alteration or new construction must be built in harmony with the city's traditional style architecture, emphasizing such local characteristics as the sweeping Lao-style tiled roofs and wooden walls.

Enthusiastic support of the project by the governor and the Lao central government, a one-party regime accused by Amnesty International of detaining political prisoners, has occasionally brought what some residents

consider heavy-handed enforcement of these cultural regulations. Authorities very strongly encourage all Lao women in Luang Prabang to wear traditional woven skirts and Lao men to keep their hair short.

In an act called excessive by conservationists, the governor ordered the demolition of dozens of wooden restaurants traditionally built on the sand banks of the Mekong during the dry season.

"There is a certain irony that the same Lao government responsible for the last king's death in a cave 20 years ago is now enthusiastically promoting tourism to Luang Prabang," said one foreign tour operator. "The king was a quasi-religious figure so it is equivalent to killing the Pope and then promoting tours of the Vatican City."

The 600-year-old ruling dynasty of Laos ended when the Communists came to power in 1975. King Savang Vadhana was forced to abdicate and was banished from Luang Prabang's royal palace. The deposed monarch briefly moved to a nearby house along the Mekong before being taken to a cave in the country's northeast, a trip from which he never returned.

The preservation of Luang Prabang does, however, receive a great deal of popular support among residents, many of whom point to Thailand, their nearby cultural cousin, as the destructive development model they wish to avoid.

"My neighbors are not all happy that we must stay in old-style houses where termites eat the wood," said Manivanh Thounmabout, a schoolteacher who supports the city's conservation efforts. "But there are many people like me who want to restore our houses as soon as money becomes available."

THOMAS CRAMPTON is a correspondent for the International Herald Tribune in Bangkok.

Travel

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Trib Travel

Pushing Pedals From Sea to Sea

Bicycle Routes Span Continents

By Rick Smith

IF YOU have ever dreamed of jumping on a bicycle and heading for the horizon, you might be advised to look for a signpost near you. It could well be that someone with the same idea has tried it out and already mapped a route, perhaps for thousands of miles.

As the millennium approaches, an assortment of politicians, environmentalists, athletes and tourism promoters have joined together to launch ambitious national and international networks of cycle routes. The United States, Britain and a group funded by the European Community are all launching major initiatives for the year 2000.

These routes, some planned and others already in existence, cross major mountain ranges, follow old military or migration routes and span continents. Some of the better traveled circuits are becoming dotted with hotels and stores that are catering to the special needs of cyclists.

"There is a trend toward more active vacations and people want a sense of accomplishment," said Kevin Condit, a director of Adventure Cycling, a nonprofit foundation based in Missoula, Montana.

That organization estimates that each year about 1,000 cyclists are now using its three mapped routes crossing the United States from ocean to ocean. It also has mapped routes playing both coasts and is coordinating a mountain biking route that roughly tracks the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico.

And on the drawing boards is EuroVelo, a venture with funding from the European Union that envisions 12 routes crossing Europe from various angles, including one from Moscow to Galway, Ireland, and another from Norway's North Cape to the tip of Sicily.

Neither of these organizations is in the business of building pathways. Instead they send out teams to reconnoiter the best existing roadways and paths, set up contact with local authorities and publish extensive maps designed for long-distance cyclists.

This is also the approach that has been followed in Germany, where the Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club, the national cyclist federation, will introduce this spring a 60-page guide showing 30 of the most attractive cycling routes in both the eastern and western parts of the country.

The British organization Sustrans (for "Sustainable Transport") goes one step further. It also initiates construction of new pathways to fill out its National Cycle Network, which it hopes will encompass 3,500 miles (5,600 kilometers) by 2000 and 8,000 miles by 2005. About 2,000 miles are already in place, with roughly half of that on pathways dedicated to non-motorized traffic.

"We want to make it possible for people who have lost the idea of transport by bicycle to try it again if there is an easy and safe way to do it," said Philip Insall, one of the directors of Sustrans.

"We don't build for cyclists, but for people who cycle," said Richard Tibenham, a spokesman for the organization.

Switzerland recently provided a closely followed prototype for other national networks. Several years ago, a half dozen dedicated cyclists, half of whom pride themselves on not knowing how to drive a car, formed a small company called Velobuero in the small town of Olten and decided to lobby for a

national network.

"The situation was chaotic before," said Rolf Bruckert, one of the founders. "Some cantons had a system and others did not. You would be going along and suddenly things would change. It was very confusing."

Soon Velobuero had sparked interest in the federal and local governments, tourist boards, athletic clubs and the national railroad. Together they mustered a budget of over 15 million francs (\$10.4 million), and nine months ago the government dedicated a network of 3,300 kilometers and nine routes crisscrossing the country.

"Now there are 10,000 standardized signs and 250 panels of maps and information scattered across Switzerland that cyclists can easily follow," he said.

Velobuero has functioned as a sort of hot house for ideas, the kind of organization where people get together and develop a vision," said Mr. Insall of Britain's Sustrans.

The Swiss effort typifies the grassroots nature of many national initiatives. U.S. federal programs for development of cycling facilities, notably the large packages passed in 1991 and 1997, are typically financed on a matched funding basis where Washington matches local contributions.

The EuroVelo project, launched in 1997, has received a modest 100,000 euros (\$110,000) in seed money from the European Community, but the funds are matching contributions

from a wide variety of local contributors, including the cities of Glasgow, Barcelona, Copenhagen and Malmö; the Estonian Road Administration; the Croatian, Danish, Dutch and Czech tourist boards; the Italian provinces of Turin and Reggio nell'Emilia, and the Spanish regions of Valencia, Andalusia and Navarra.

"About 60 organizations in 22 countries have contributed," said Victoria Gil, the EuroVelo coordinator in Brussels, who noted that the organization is hoping to build a wide base of support to gain further funding.

"We have had more contact with local and regional governments than with national ones," she said.

EUROVELO is aiming to have one of its 12 projected cross-European routes mapped out by 2000. It is also in the process of deciding if it wants a uniform system of signs or instead wants to concentrate its resources on incorporating instructions in its maps.

As tourism grows in importance for many regions and especially for struggling backwaters, the rewards of so-called cyclotourism can be impressive.

A new study being prepared by EuroVelo notes that hotels in some Austrian towns along the Danube, a path that follows the

beads of the Danube from Passau, Germany, to Vienna, are booking as much as 80 percent

of overnight stays from cyclists.

"All of the towns along this route have benefited from the cyclists," said Walker Grassl, a spokesman for Oesterreich Werbung, an organization promoting tourism in Austria. He noted that the route of approximately 350 kilometers largely follows a path used in the past by teams of horses to pull rafts on the river.

There is now a category of 40 "Bike Hotels" in Austria that must provide repair tools, bicycle storage, "low-fat meals" and weather information. Other services range from guided tours to massages. In Switzerland, more than 100 hotels have been classified as *velotels*, or cyclist hotels, and provide similar services in eight price categories.

"We think we had 120,000 overnight stays by cyclists in Swiss hotels last summer," said Joerg Krebs, a spokesman for Schweiz Tourismus, the Swiss tourist organization, in Zurich. "But that was the first year of the new network and we are aiming to lift that to 250,000 to 500,000."

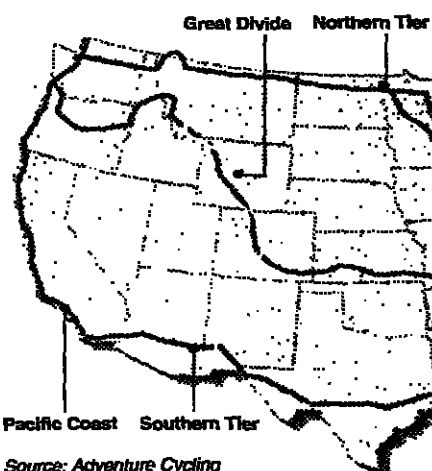
The prospect of armies of relatively quiet and peaceful, nonpolluting tourists has produced more than a few turnaround stories for depressed communities.

When the small town of Moab, Utah, was devastated by the closing of its uranium mines in the 1980s, a few miners who were hobby cyclists knew how intriguing the local terrain was for cyclists and opened a bike shop.

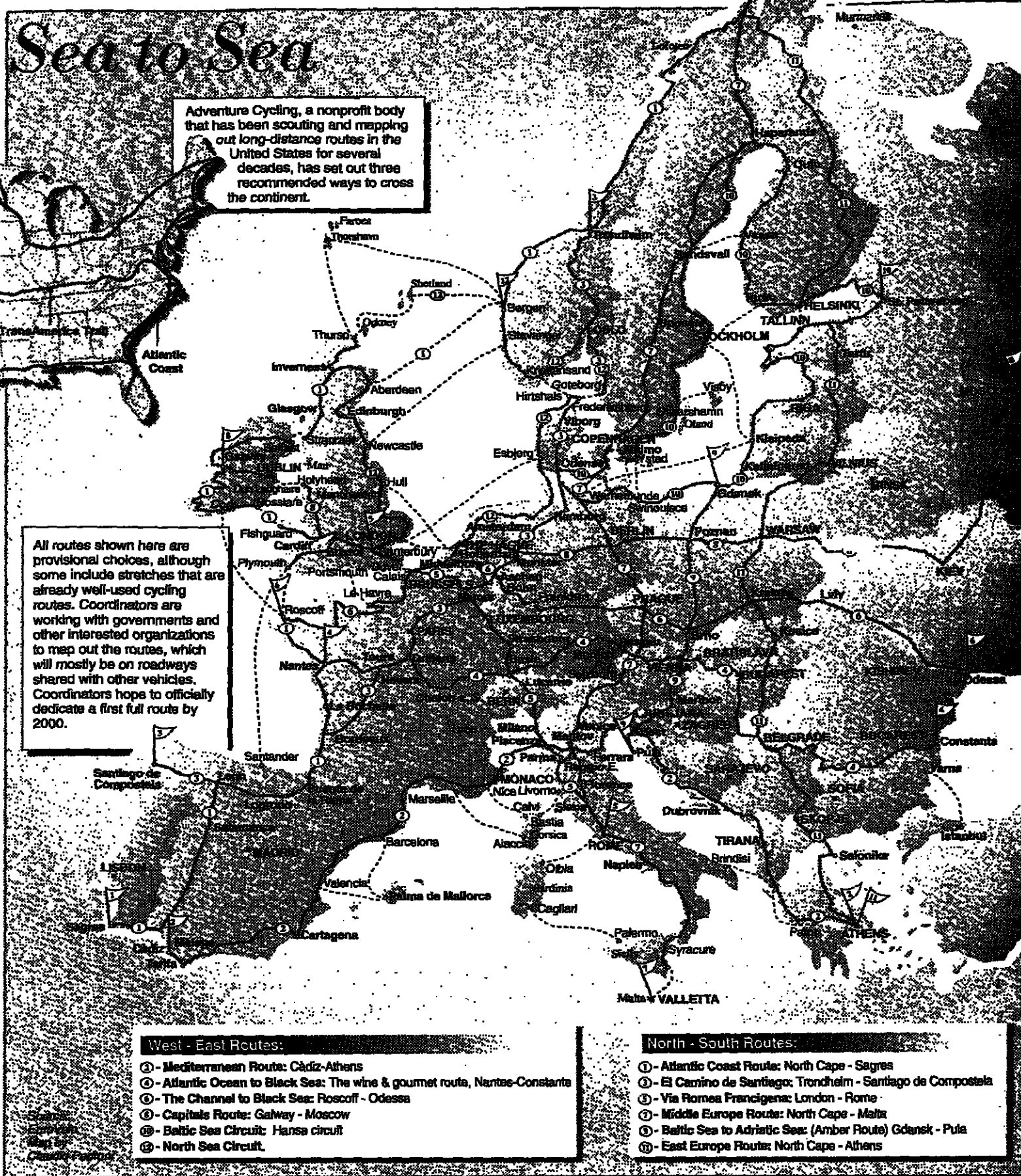
"It was a matter of survival," said Marian DeLay, director of the Grand County Travel Council.

The town has since been dubbed a world capital of mountain biking and the town of 6,500 now has 49 restaurants, 1,600 hotels rooms and 13 operators who rent bicycles and do tours. Although the town is also attractive to general tourists as a gateway to scenic canyon areas, it estimates that several hundred thousand of its visitors come each year just to cycle.

RICK SMITH is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.



Source: Adventure Cycling



All routes shown here are provisional choices, although some include stretches that are already well-used cycling routes. Coordinators are working with governments and other interested organizations to map out the routes, which will mostly be on roadways shared with other vehicles. Coordinators hope to officially dedicate a first full route by 2000.

West-East Routes:

- ① - Mediterranean Route: Cadix-Athens
- ② - Atlantic Ocean to Black Sea: The wine & gourmet route, Nantes-Constantinople
- ③ - The Channel to Black Sea: Roscoff - Odessa
- ④ - Capital Route: Moscow - Maastricht
- ⑤ - Baltic Sea Circuit: Hanse circuit
- ⑥ - North Sea Circuit

North-South Routes:

- ① - Atlantic Coast Route: North Cape - Sagres
- ② - El Camino de Santiago: Trondheim - Santiago de Compostela
- ③ - Via Romes Francigena: London - Rome
- ④ - Middle Europe Route: North Cape - Malta
- ⑤ - Baltic Sea to Adriatic Sea: (Amber Route) Gdansk - Pola
- ⑥ - East Europe Route: North Cape - Athens

Hotels and stores are catering to the needs of cyclists.

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Guiding the Elderly To Good Nutrition

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Many ailments that afflict elderly people are caused or indirectly worsened by poor nutrition — an inadequate intake of essential nutrients, dietary fiber and water. Health problems like heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, kidney disease and even cancer are influenced by the foods consumed, or not consumed, especially in older people.

Poor choice of foods, rather than a shortage of finances, is the usual reason. Studies indicate that nutritional shortcomings are common among the elderly who are well-to-do as well as those with limited resources.

Studies have shown that just as a child's nutritional requirements differ in quantity and quality from an adult's, the nutritional needs of the elderly differ from those of younger adults.

The Food Guide Pyramid to good eating habits devised in 1992 by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services depicts the number of recommended servings of each food group to be consumed per day by an adult who wants to remain healthy. The pyramid calls for a daily intake of six to 11 servings of grain-based foods, three to five servings of vegetables, two to four servings of fruits, two to three servings of a high-protein food (meat, poultry, fish, dried beans, eggs and nuts) and two to three servings of dairy foods. Fats, oils and sweets — at the tip of the pyramid — should be eaten sparingly.

But large numbers of elderly Americans fall seriously short of these recommendations, consuming the least nutritious choices in each food category. Like white bread instead of whole grain and fruit juice instead of whole fruit. In addition, as energy needs decline with age, the elderly tend to eat fewer calories, and hence fewer servings, of the recommended food groups.

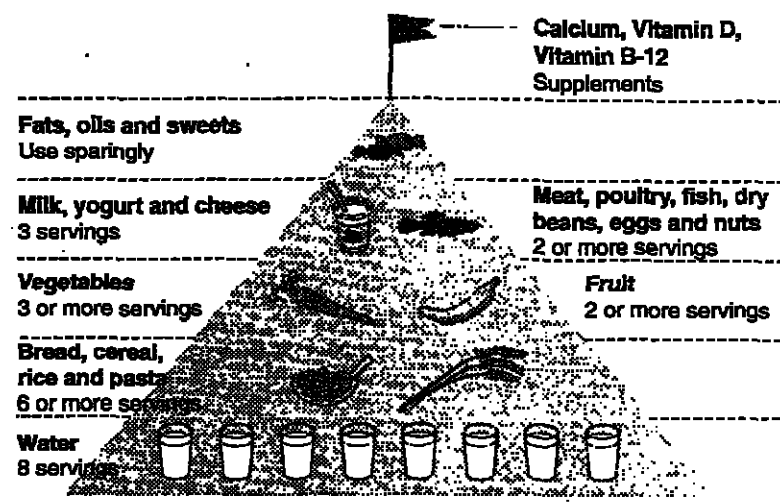
With these problems in mind, Dr. Robert Russell, a professor of medicine and nutrition at Tufts University in Boston and his colleagues at the Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Dr. Alice Lichtenstein and Helen Rasmussen, a registered dietitian, have developed a revised food guide pyramid for people over 70.

This guide has a new foundation: water, eight 8-ounce (240-milliliter) glasses of it (or its nonalcoholic, caffeine-free equivalent) each day. Dr. Russell said that "older people have a reduced thirst mechanism — they have to consciously think of drinking more and keeping well hydrated." He explained that without enough water, blood pressure can fall dangerously low, blood may form and block blood vessels, kidney function may be compromised and constipation can become chronic.

The next level — six or more servings a day of grain-based foods like bread, cereal, rice and pasta — must emphasize fiber-rich choices, the Tufts researchers say. Then come the fruits and vegetables, both of which are best consumed as fiber-rich whole foods, not juice. Furthermore, they say, the recommended

Eating Right From Bottom to Top

Scientists have developed a new food pyramid specifically for people over 70, whose nutritional needs are often lacking.



Source: Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University

The New York Times

three or more servings of vegetables and two or more servings of fruits should feature foods that are richly colored — dark green, orange, red or yellow. These are richest in essential nutrients.

In the dairy group, the three recommended servings a day should feature low-fat choices. Within the meat group, the two or more daily servings should emphasize variety and feature fish and dried beans as well as lean cuts of meat and poultry, the new pyramid suggests.

Overall, the consumption of high-fat and highly sweetened foods should be limited since they provide nutritionally empty calories and leave less room in the quotient for nutrient-rich foods.

As for the types of fats used in cooking, in dressings and as table spreads, the Tufts scientists recommend liquid oils and, if margarine is used it should be free of so-called trans fatty acids, which behave like artery-clogging saturated fat.

The Tufts researchers, who are publishing their suggested food guide in the March issue of *The Journal of Nutrition*, have added something new to the pyramid: a supplement "flag" at the peak. Dr. Russell explained that few older people were able to get enough calcium, Vitamin B-12 and Vitamin D from their diets, and many would have to take supplements to fulfill nutritional needs.

Fear: Response To a Hostile World

By Natalie Angier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Not long ago, I had an episode of a recurring nightmare: a going-back-to-the-Bronx dream. In reality, my childhood apartment building on Creston Avenue has long since burned to the ground.

In my dreams, though, I must get back to it, no matter how dangerous the journey. I must walk along dark streets where batterers and murderers loiter in every doorway. I must travel on subways that invariably run the wrong direction.

When I finally arrive, the apartment is deserted, with no lock, no lights, no furniture, no family to protect me. I'm all alone in the Bronx, and I'm terrified right out of my mind. At which point, I bolt awake — and the real nightmare begins.

In my waking life, my mind sets out for my inspection that fleshiest source of anxiety: work. I worry about assignments still to be reported, parts of my latest book that I hate, the many stories that I have started but never finished.

From what I have been able to gather through discussions with some psychologists, I am fearful by nature. It is not a disease, they tell me. It is a temperamental flavor. My fearfulness can even be parsed. According to the reigning model of personality development, one's character is constructed of about six core components, which are mixed, matched, chopped and puréed into the primordial soup we call the self.

Each dimension is thought to be partly inherited, and partly formed, or deformed, by experience. The ancients knew these personality modules as the "dispositional humors," giving them zesty names like "phlegm" and "choler." Scientists now speak of human nature as a compendium of the traits "harm avoidance," "novelty-seeking," "self-directedness," "cooperativeness," "persistence" and "extraversion."

Noting that "tendency to wring one's hands" was not among the dirty half-dozen, I called Dr. C. Robert Cloninger of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and asked him, "What's the recipe for a crybaby?"

"There are two aspects of personality related to fearfulness," he said. "One is being high in the dimension of harm avoidance. This means that you're very sensitive to all sorts of potentially uncomfortable stimuli. You anticipate threats and pains, and you try to avoid them."

"The other part of fearfulness is being low in self-directedness," he said.

"That means you don't have much self-confidence, and you tend to think of the world as a hostile place."

Was he implying that I was hostile? "The two often go together, as you might expect," he said. "If you're sensitive to threats, it's hard to have a hopeful view of life. That negativity can end up eroding your self-esteem. On the other hand, if you are naturally high in harm avoidance, and you're raised in a supportive environment where you learn what the safe limits are, you can gain confidence and self-directedness, and avoid becoming excessively fearful."

"That's fine if you're a kid. But what can you do if you're a fearful adult?" I asked.

"It's not impossible to change," Dr. Cloninger answered. "but it is difficult. One thing we've learned is that temperament tends to remain stable over the course of a lifetime."

I decided to explore the positive side of negativity. I called Dr. Myron Hofer of the New York State Psychiatric Institute in New York, who has studied the evolution of fear and anxiety, and asked him, "What good is fear?"

"Fear, of course, was absolutely necessary to survival in our evolutionary past," he said. "Anxiety is probably the first emotion that an infant experiences, at the moment of birth and separation from the mother. In nearly all birds and mammals, an infant that is separated from the nest will show signs of intense anxiety, particularly by vocalizing. The only species we've seen where this doesn't happen is the rabbit. For some reason, baby rabbits don't cry."

"Certain aspects of the fear response make physical sense," Dr. Hofer continued. "For example, consider the fact that your arm hairs stand on end when you're scared: That could be a holdover from a young mammal's response to separation, an attempt to stay warm in the absence of its mother by fluffing up its fur."

OR take the shallow breathing and tendency toward paralysis that can accompany intense fear, he said: What better way to fool a lurking predator than to act invisible, or dead?

"A little bit of anxiety is still a good thing to have," Dr. Hofer added. "Performance artists say they need a surge of anxiety to put on a great show. But perpetual anxiety and fearfulness are another matter. They don't make sense. Many of the threats that our forebears confronted no longer exist."

The Solar System: Oddball of the Universe?

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The discovery of planets around other stars has made Epicureans of astronomers. Not that they now put out the fine silver, pop the cork and dress for dinner by candlelight every long night under the observatory dome; they are still unwrapping their fired sandwiches and tearing open the corn chips. But nowadays their tastes run to the cosmic musings of the eponymous founder of Epicurean philosophy.

Epicurus, a Greek philosopher in the fourth century B.C., did not explicitly predict the existence of planets around stars other than the sun, but he believed in an infinity of worlds, meaning other ordered systems beyond the visible universe as it was then conceived.

This contrasted to the Earth-centered cosmos of his contemporary, Aristotle, whose cosmology prevailed in Western thought for more than two millennia.

Only in the last three years have astronomers established the reality of latter-day Epicurean speculations about a plurality of worlds, which in recent centuries came to mean planets beyond the solar system, some possibly inhabited. But while astronomers tip their hats to Epicurus, they just wish he had advised them how to make sense of the distant planets being detected by their telescopes.

Finding something is not the same as discovering what is found. The more astronomers study the growing evidence of extrasolar planets, the less they resemble anything in the one planetary system they had known and on which they had based their theories: the sun's family of planets.

At last count, astronomers in the United States and Europe had observed 18 nearby sun-like stars showing telltale motions from the gravity of large, unseen planets orbiting them, and they fully expect to find more. Yet they suspect that they have seen enough to begin rethinking how nature creates and destroys planets and choreographs their orbital minnets.

Nine of the objects hug closer to their parent stars than Mercury is to the sun, closer than standard theory predicted planets could be; one is so near that it makes a complete revolution — its full year — every 3.1 Earth days. The other nine travel unusually elliptical, or oval-shaped, orbits, several of them plunging

in relatively close to their stars and then swinging far out again; orbits in the solar system are almost circular. Several extrasolar planets are at least three times as massive as Jupiter, the solar system's giant, and one is estimated to have 11 times the Jovian mass — raising questions about how massive can a planet be.

Geoffrey Marcy, the astronomer at San Francisco State University who has had a hand in most of the discoveries, is as surprised as anyone. "A trend is now being stamped on these discoveries that we thought, frankly, would go away," he said.

But it has not, and questions pile up. Many stars may have planets, as the discoveries suggest, but is there a typical pattern? Could the solar system be an oddball? If so, does that diminish prospects for intelligent life existing elsewhere in the universe?

Alan Boss, a theorist of planetary systems at the Carnegie Institution of Wash-

The discovery of planets around other stars is shaking up standard theory.

ington, thinks astronomers will eventually "find systems that look something like our solar system." He acknowledged that they will also "find many more surprises to make us rethink what we're doing."

Astronomers concede that so far their sampling of extrasolar planets may not be representative, only a reflection of detection capabilities. They have no proof yet of another sun-like star with more than one planet, or with anything considerably smaller than a Jupiter.

But it is easier to observe the gravitational effects of Jupiter-class planets, especially if they are very close to the host stars. It takes years of repeated observations to gather evidence for planets traveling the longer orbits at much greater distances from a star. And it is not yet possible to detect in any orbit, near or far, an Earth-size or even Saturn-size planet.

The newest detection, announced last month, was of the smallest extrasolar planet yet examined, one that has less than half of Jupiter's mass and is only 1.4

times more massive than Saturn. The planet, in a tight 3.5-day orbit around the star HD 75289, was found by a team of Swiss astronomers led by Michel Mayor of the Geneva Observatory, who in October 1995 reported the first confirmed planet around another star like the sun.

In the next decade, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration expects to fly several space telescopes for a more comprehensive survey of planets around nearby stars. On the drawing board is an advanced satellite called Planet Finder that someday could send back the first pictures of Earth-type extrasolar planets.

"It's a terribly exciting field right now," said Stephen Lubow, an astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "The discoveries have really opened a new window on the nature of planetary objects."

The first discoveries of extrasolar planets should have prepared astronomers to expect the unexpected. In 1992, radio astronomers reported the first strong evidence of such objects, but the two planets were not orbiting a normal star. They accompanied a pulsar, the dense remnant of an exploded star.

Mr. Mayor and Didier Queloz of Switzerland then detected a planet around 51 Pegasi, a solar-type star, and this was confirmed by Mr. Marcy and a colleague, R. Paul Butler. The first accepted planet of an ordinary star excited and puzzled astronomers. Both teams were startled to find that the planet, about half the mass of Jupiter, was in an almost circular orbit less than one-sixth the equivalent distance of Mercury to the sun.

Ever since then, theorists have been puzzling over how several of the large planets — dubbed "hot Jupiters" because of their proximity to the intense heat of their stars — could be where they are. Why were they not out somewhere the equivalent of the Jupiter-sun distance?

Because known physical laws rule out the formation of large planets so close to a star, theorists think they formed in a more benign environment far out and migrated inward. The unlucky ones probably crashed into their star.

One of the first detections by the Marcy-Butler team, announced in January 1996, introduced another puzzle. The planet around 70 Virginis was more than seven times the Jovian mass and not as close to its star as many others, but its orbit was highly elliptical. Other dis-

coveries revealed similar characteristics.

Some powerful gravitational forces, astrophysicists said, must have perturbed the planets' orbits. Frederic Rasio of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working with Eric Ford, has proposed a concept of gravitational scattering that, he said, "explains very naturally and simply planets in wide eccentric orbits."

The idea involves two or more huge planets orbiting in close proximity so that they generate a kind of gravitational slingshot. The forces might sling one planet off on an elongated orbit to the inner planetary system, while the other might fly off toward the fringes of the system, perhaps escaping into interstellar space.

IN BRIEF

From the 16th Century, Message From the Stars

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A 400-year-old horoscope that was written for an Austrian nobleman by the astronomer Johannes Kepler himself was discovered in a drawer at a University of California at Santa Cruz archive.

The document, written in a flowery hand by the man who helped discover the laws of orbital motion, was found by an astronomer, Anthony Misch, in December while he was researching solar eclipse expeditions. It is not clear exactly what Kepler was predicting for the life of Hans Hannibal Hutter von Hutterhofen, who was born in 1586.

The document includes the nobleman's date and time of birth in German, as well as a sepi-colored diamond with an X through it enclosed by a square. It is signed by another eminent astronomer, Wilhelm Surve, declaring that the horoscope is written "in the hand of Kepler, from the collection of Kepler Manuscripts in Pulkova." The Pulkova observatory was founded near St. Petersburg in the early 1800s.

Preventing Baldness

LONDON (Reuters) — Proteins that make brain cells grow could lead to new drugs to prevent baldness or help people

get rid of unwanted hair, New Scientist magazine reported.

German dermatologists at Humboldt University in Berlin carried out experiments on shaved mice that showed that two growth factors and the genes that produce them might trigger follicle shrinkage. The scientists said the two substances worked by binding with a receptor on a cell. Drugs designed to block the receptor could prevent baldness, while others could increase hair loss by mimicking the action of the proteins.

Treating Lower Back Pain

CHICAGO (Reuters) — Lower back pain, one of the most common problems in modern society, can be treated by electrical stimulation through needles inserted in the muscles and soft tissue of the back, researchers report.

The report from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, said the technique offered effective short-term relief and appeared to have a cumulative effect that might offer "prolonged beneficial effects in patients with long-term lower back pain."

The treatment method — called percutaneous electrical nerve stimulation — is designed to stimulate peripheral

sensory nerves. It differs from acupuncture, which also at times employs electricity, in that instead of inserting needles in specified "acupuncture points," the probes are placed in areas that Western medicine has determined contain nerve endings. While the points might duplicate at times, it would be by chance, the researchers said.

On Breast-Feeding

UNITED NATIONS, New York (NYT) — Increased breast-feeding could save the lives of up to 1.5 million of the roughly 12 million children under the age of 5 who die every year around the world, according to initial findings presented by a group of women's organizations.

The organizations, which have been trying to measure the economic benefits of breast-feeding, told the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women that they hope to counter what they see as a worldwide decline in the practice by convincing governments, health authorities and ordinary families that they should do more to encourage mothers to breast-feed.

Children who are not breast-fed tend to have weaker immune systems and are at greater risk from infectious diseases, especially diarrhea and respiratory illnesses, they say.

TIME

STEP OUT OF YOUR WORLD

LANGUAGE

If Not Now, When? Sooner Rather Than Later

By William Safire
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Whenever a president or other world leader uses a phrase in a highly charged situation, it echoes through the language. Sooner rather than later, it loses its referent and becomes a freestanding idiom; people use the familiar phrase out of vaguish habit, forgetting the source that initially popularized it.

On Jan. 22, 1998, during a photo opportunity with a neophyte Yasser Arafat, President Bill Clinton told reporters inquiring about nonforeign relations, "I'd like you to have more rather than less, sooner rather than later."

The phrase was repeated supportively by his press secretary, as well as by his former chief of staff, Leon Panetta. "There is going to be a time, and I think it has to be sooner rather than later, where the president has to say to the country what the situation is," argued the independent counsel before the Supreme Court, "in January of this year, that the American people are entitled to more rather than less, sooner rather than later."

The phrase was quickly compressed in speech to *sooner rather than later* and spread far afield. Jane Brennan, a councilwoman from Punta Gorda, Florida, who is striving to save its 1927 courthouse from demolition, told The Sarasota Herald-Tribune, "We're hoping to get the courthouse worked out, and sooner rather than later."

The phrase is an outgrowth of *sooner or later*, the lexicographer Sol Steinmetz informs me. In 1577, Barnaby Googe wrote in his translation of the Dutch author Conrad Heresbach's "Heresbach's Four Books of Husbandry" that "The stones, sticks, and such baggage... are to be thrown out sooner or later." In 1933, J.M. Campbell, writing in *Speculum*, illustrated both root and branch: "But if efforts to overtake the meaning of a stubborn passage always include the [Church] Fathers sooner or later, then why not sooner than later?" The earliest citation I can find of S.R.T.L. is in an article from the journal published by the Royal Economic Society in June 1895. Referring to the "Boot War," W.B. Hoffman wrote, "The most we can expect is that repetition of the late disastrous war will not occur for some time to come, but even that hope may be shattered sooner rather than later."

In stretching out stock phrases resting on the fulcrum of *or*—from one thing or another to here or there—we must ask ourselves: Is this extension necessary? Does the redundancy detract from precision? Is S.R.T.L. any sooner than the unadorned *soon*? Decide for yourself, one way rather than the other.

Globalization was last year's hot word at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Forget it; the world has passed it by. This year's theme was "Responsible Globality." Coinage was attributed to Daniel

Yergin, author of "The Commanding Heights" (appropriate reading in a ski village), who wrote in the May 18, 1998, *Newsweek*, "We are now beginning to see a reality beyond globalization—the world of globality."

Reached in Boston, Yergin further explained the term: "What bothered me about globalization," he said, "was that it describes a process. We needed a word to carry it into a state of being. Globality suggests a condition of community and interconnection."

Few feelings are as exhilarating as the thrill of coining. Some unknown diplomat involved in the normalization of relations smacked his forehead one day and cried, "I've got it—we've reached normality!" Someday, a soldier denied fraternization with the local girls will long in print for *fraternality*, an uncoined word to shorten the equally sexist "brotherhood of Man."

The correspondent Frank Gervasi wrote in 1943 of "a sense of the globality of the war." The Merriam-Webster files also turn up "even in 1942 a final obstacle to complete globality remained," in the 1942 "Global War," by Edgar Ansel Mowrer and Marjorie Kachman. Economists liked it, too. Kiyoshi Kuga observed in the July 1972 *Economist* that "the problem of globality is always important in this topic" of the factor-price equalization theorem, my copy of which does not come readily to hand.

But Yergin was the unchallenged popularizer in its current politico-business sense. Globalization, panting, has at last arrived.

BOOKS

EVENING NEWS

By Marly Swick. 356 pages. \$23. Little, Brown & Co.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

THE characters in Marly Swick's previous collection of stories, "The Summer Before the Summer of Love" (1995), worried about the fault lines running beneath the surface of their placid, formulaic lives: the emotional sinkholes and random acts of violence that could easily destroy their carefully tended dreams. One man observed that he had spent his entire life "waiting for some ax to fall that never falls," while another feared that he would walk into his daughters' room one morning and "find nothing but two little piles of wilted petals lying on their twin beds."

In Swick's affecting new novel, all her characters' worst fears come true. In the opening pages something terrible happens, one of those things that usually happen to other people on the evening news. Nine-year-old Teddy is playing at his best friend hands him his father's gun; somehow the gun goes off, and Teddy's 2-year-old half-sister, Trina, is suddenly lying in a pool of blood, as their horrified mother, Giselle, looks on.

In that moment, Giselle thinks, it seemed as if "their real life had been canceled."

"Or someone had flipped the channel. And now they were stuck in some godawful soap opera that could go on and on for years."

The story Swick spins from this melodramatic event possesses both the psychological suspense of Sue Miller's

best-selling family drama "The Good Mother" and the emotional acuity of Alice Munro's short stories. In charting the impact that Trina's death has on Teddy, Giselle and Giselle's new husband, Dan, Swick shows us how that event irrevocably alters the mathematics of love in their little family: how Dan finds himself unable to forgive his stepson for killing his daughter, and how Giselle finds herself torn between her loyalty to Teddy and her passion for Dan.

Although we are given Teddy's point of view in italicized passages running throughout the novel, the bulk of "Evening News" is told from Giselle's perspective. We learn that Giselle (who pointedly shares the name of the doomed ballerina) grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and that she once planned to become a journalist or lawyer. Her life, however, took several unexpected detours: While still in college, she became pregnant with Teddy, married his father, Ed, and settled down to life as a wife and mother.

When that marriage began to unravel, she took Teddy and left for California where she planned to finish college and go to law school. This time her methodical plans unraveled happily. She fell in love with Dan, who was one of her professors, got married again and gave birth to Trina. Now, with Trina's death, she thinks, her hopes for a new life with Dan have been shattered. Dan not only harbors a deep bitterness toward Teddy but also has begun to write a book about the loss of his daughter, a book that enrages Giselle and threatens to destroy their family's privacy forever.

In the hands of a lesser writer, such events might echo with the tinny sound

of the talk-show confessional, but Swick writes about Giselle with such unselfish precision that she is able to make her predicament feel utterly palpable and real. Like so many of Swick's earlier characters, Giselle has a self-conscious ability to see her life from within and without at the same time; she is constantly comparing her experiences to books and television shows, measuring her emotions against an impersonal standard as a way of distancing her own confusion and pain, while underscoring the almost comical gap between art and life, expectation and reality.

As Giselle struggles to forgive Teddy for shooting his sister—she will later call his mother's love for him "an act of will," requiring "strenuous daily exercise"—he struggles to come to terms with his own feelings of guilt. Convinced that he has forever compromised his mother's chance of happiness with Dan, Teddy begins acting out. He grows increasingly hostile and defensive, and tries to kill himself by swallowing a bottle of Nyquil. His actions, combined with Dan's mounting anger, will force Giselle to send Teddy home to his father, Ed, in Nebraska, and they will force her to re-evaluate her entire life.

It is not hard for the reader to predict what will happen to Giselle: As in Swick's weaker short stories, her penchant for stage-managing her characters' lives grows increasingly pronounced as the novel progresses. Her account of Giselle and her family, however, remains so moving that the reader does not really care if the book's ending is a little too shapely, a little too pat, more the "Lassie" version of real life than the evening news.

New York Times Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

AN event that is contested annually in Manhattan and probably nowhere else in North America was played at Honors Club, 115 East 57th Street, New York. It is the Betty Kaplan Teams, in which players are required to rotate partnerships.

The winners were Ravindra Murthy, Steve Weinstein and Michael and Debbie Rosenberg who scored 91 victory points out of a possible 120. Second with 83 in the field of 20 teams were Nancy Schwantes, Prakash Kumar,

Marin Marinov and Ognian Kotchev.

Good defense on the diagramed deal helped the winners defeat a contract of

NORTH
♦ A 10 3
♥ J 8 6 5 2
—
—
WEST
♦ 8 7 6
♥ 3 5 2
♦ Q 9
♠ 10
EAST
—
—
♦ K 8 3
♦ A K 7 4 3
—
SOUTH
♦ Q 10 8 5
♥ Q 7 6
♦ 10
♠ 9

four spades. Murthy as West led a trump, and South finessed, losing to the singleton king. On a club return South tried the jack, which was covered with the queen and king. A club to the ace and a club ruff left the position shown at left.

The declarer led a low heart from the dummy, hoping for a chance to ruff his remaining club, but East rose with the king and made the key play of underleading his top diamonds. East's partner was able to win with the queen and lead another trump to defeat the game. South had no way to avoid a fourth loser.

NORTH
♦ A J 4
♥ A 10 3
♦ J 8 6 5 2
♠ K 4
WEST
♦ 8 7 6 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ Q 9
♠ Q 10 8 5
EAST (D)
♦ K
♥ K 8 4
♦ A K 7 4 3
♠ 7 5 2

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:
East: 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣
West: 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣
Pass Pass Pass

West led the spade three.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

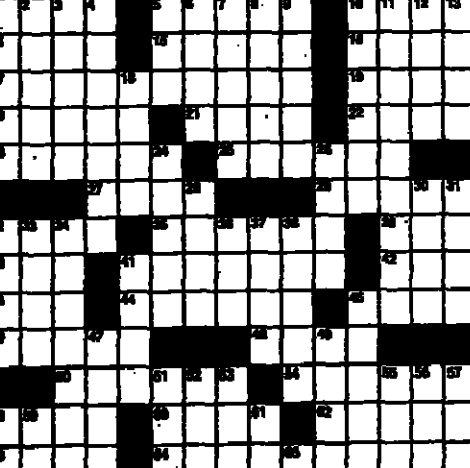
- 1 German river to the North Sea
- 6 Houston NFLer
- 10 Fictional captain with an ivory leg
- 14 Flaming red attachment
- 16 Cucumber
- 18 Melchior K., for Dostoevsky
- 19 Washington
- 21 Where the President works
- 23 Minute amount
- 25 Jesse's material
- 27 Regarding
- 29 Dick and Jane's dog
- 23 Skipped the wedding
- 25 Coin flip
- 27 High-hat
- 29 Cockeyed
- 31 Seldom seen
- 33 Zoo inhabitants
- 35 If temper
- 37 Meyers of "Tote & Alie"
- 41 Sewing groups
- 42 L.B.J.'s successor
- 43 Bad-and-breakfast
- 45 Scorable unit
- 47 Jesse's material
- 49 Accepted doctrine

DOWN

- 1 West away, 28 north
- 2 Carpenter's tool
- 3 Community gambling game
- 4 Area south of the White House, with "the"
- 5 Poodle's bark
- 6 Davenport
- 7 Chubby
- 8 Checker's dance
- 9 Front of a sheet of paper
- 10 Nabisco cookies
- 11 Cropper up
- 12 Dress for Scarlett O'Hara
- 13 Shrink
- 14 Yellowbell
- 15 Draw out
- 16 Auto racer A. J.
- 18 Sticky stuff
- 19 Hole—(acc)
- 20 "That hunt!"
- 22 Camelot figure
- 24 Two Jims, e.g.
- 27 Hot cool
- 28 Study for finals
- 29 Lustrous look
- 30 Park, Col.
- 31 Melba balls for the barn

CHOIR VOICE

- 13 Tuckered out
- 14 Harbinger
- 16 "The Mary Loves of—"
- 18 Words of disrespect
- 20 Lash of "The Whorl of Oz"
- 22 Humorous Bonoboo
- 24 "What—wrong?"
- 26 Nerd's bust
- 28 Cartoonist Peter
- 30 Wagner work
- 32 Have work in Hollywood
- 34 Lol
- 36 Hauls, Ind.
- 38 Falcon features
- 40 Popeye's muscle builder
- 42 May honoree
- 44 Came down to earth
- 46 Be in harmony
- 48 Model units
- 50 Harbor
- 52 Suspicious
- 54 Snake
- 56 Dandel filling
- 58 Abounds



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INTERNATIONAL

Sheikh Isa, 65, Bahrain Ruler, Dies

Emir, Who Led Gulf Nation Since 1961, Succumbs to Heart Attack

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

RIYADH — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa ibn Sulman al Khalifa, who died Saturday at 65, shaped his country into an important ally of the West during nearly four decades in power.

Bahraini officials said the cause of death was a heart attack, which the emir suffered at his palace in Manama, the capital, just minutes after a meeting with William Cohen, U.S. defense secretary.

A diminutive man with twinkling eyes, Sheikh Isa enjoyed life, ruling with a mischievous touch. He had dozens of wives — though never more than four at a time, in keeping with his Muslim religion, and presided until late in life at what was known as emir's beach, to which foreigners but not Bahrainis were welcomed. Female beachgoers who caught his eye were routinely invited to join the emir for coffee.

It was with a similar impetuosity that Sheikh Isa ruled Bahrain since 1961, winning his country many friends and considerable wealth but sometimes offending people in the process.

He declared Bahrain's independence from Britain in 1971, then maintained a pro-Western line in foreign policy. The country is the base of the U.S. 5th Fleet, which has also provoked resentment in Bahrain.

The emir's policies also angered Iraq, the tiny emirate's giant neighbor. Sheikh Isa allowed Bahrain to be used as a Western air base for attacks on Iraq during the Gulf War in 1991.

With an early eye to economic diversification, Sheikh Isa also presided

over bold changes that established Bahrain as a major financial center.

Though oil was discovered in Bahrain as early as the 1930s, it was never found in large quantities, and as a headquarters for foreign banks and other businesses, Bahrain became proof that it was possible to prosper in the Middle East without vast energy reserves.

Sheikh Isa was careful to maintain an alliance with the region's economic and military powerhouse, Saudi Arabia, with which it is connected by a causeway and from which it receives oil from a shared field.

But when it came to sharing power, Sheikh Isa was often at his most mercurial. A constitution adopted in 1973 established Bahrain as only the second Gulf Arab state, after Kuwait, to have an elected Parliament. But Sheikh Isa dissolved Parliament in August 1975 after a showdown with leftist members over domestic and regional policies. The constitution also was suspended.

In 1992, Sheikh Isa consolidated the retreat away from even limited democracy by issuing a decree that replaced the National Assembly with a 30-member consultative council whose members would be appointed by the emir.

That kind of heavy hand often served to maintain an atmosphere of domestic tranquility in Bahrain, even as the Iranian revolution of 1979 and instability in Iraq underscored the dangers of the region.

But it never fully capped the anger felt by many Bahrainis, particularly the majority population of Shiite Muslims, toward Sheikh Isa and his ruling Khalifa family, who are Sunnis.

In the emir's final years, that bit-

terness was exposed in a significant way, through a low-level campaign of violence that claimed about two dozen lives after 1994 and resulted in the jailing of hundreds of Shiite activists.

Richard Kiley, 75, Actor

NEW YORK (NYT) — Richard Kiley, 75, who won a Tony Award for his compelling performance as Don Quixote in the Broadway musical "Man of La Mancha" and was for 40 years one of theater's most distinguished and versatile actors, died Friday in Middletown, New York.

The cause was a blood disorder, his wife, Patricia Ferrier Kiley, said.

Before he did "Man of La Mancha" in 1965, he already had been on Broadway singing "Stranger in Paradise" as the Caliph in "Kismet."

He had been in the drama "Time Limit," had won a Tony award for the musical "Redhead" and also had starred in Richard Rodgers' "No Strings."

Although he was best known for his roles in musicals, he also acted in plays by Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller.

In addition to his Tony Awards, he won three Emmys and two Golden Globes for his performances in "The Thorn Birds," "A Year in the Life" and "Picket Fences."

He played Don Quixote for the entire run of the show, 2,328 performances over six years. Then he toured with it and took it back to Broadway in 1972 and in 1977. His films include "Blackboard Jungle," "Looking for Mr. Goodbar," "The Little Prince," "Endless Love" and "Patch Adams."

KUBRICK: Director of '2001: A Space Odyssey' Is Dead at 70

Continued from Page 1.

in Hollywood, reading: "I resign, stop. As a filmmaker you are a genius, but as an employer you are an imbecile."

Born in New York City on July 26, 1928, the son of successful doctor, Mr. Kubrick was never short of money. When his father gave him a Graflex camera as a present for his 13th birthday, he took to eavesdropping on New York life with the camera concealed in a paper bag.

Although he made a start working with RKO, his early documentaries and the two low-budget features on which he learned his craft were largely financed by his own savings and well-to-do relatives. He belonged to the last wave of filmmakers to achieve prominence before film school became the principal means of entering the industry.

"I was aware that I didn't know anything about making films, but I believed I couldn't make them any worse than the majority of films I was seeing," Mr. Kubrick once said. "Bad films gave me the courage to try making a movie."

Mr. Kubrick's films were almost invariably adapted from novels, although he displayed a particular interest in themes relating to human fallibility and the impossibility of imposing rational

systems on an irrational universe.

From "Paths of Glory" (1958), a pacifist tract banned for many years in France, onward, every Kubrick film has been an event.

In 1960, Mr. Kubrick was drafted into "Spartacus" by Kirk Douglas when the production, then the most expensive ever mounted in the United States, ran into trouble. The film included some footage shot by the original director, Anthony Mann, and Mr. Kubrick did not regard the finished product as a great success.

"I tried with only limited success to make the film as real as possible but I was up against a pretty dumb script which was rarely faithful to what is known about Spartacus," Mr. Kubrick told an interviewer. "If I ever needed convincing of the limits of persuasion a director can have on a film where someone else is the producer and he is merely the highest paid member of the crew, 'Spartacus' provided proof to last a lifetime."

With "Lolita" Mr. Kubrick took on Vladimir Nabokov's sulphurous novel of under-age sex. "Lolita" was filmed in Britain, in part because of censorship problems in the United States, and Mr. Kubrick was thereafter based in Britain.

In 1964, he called on Peter Sellers for "Dr. Strangelove," a comedy about nuclear annihilation.

With "2001: A Space Odyssey" in 1968, he produced cinema's hymn to the space age, and the film, with its dazzling visual imagery and inspired use of music, proved to be a great success.

In 1971 came "A Clockwork Orange," set in a violent future, one of Mr. Kubrick's most controversial films. The film was banned in Britain and disparaged by Anthony Burgess, whose novel was the basis of the film. One of Mr. Kubrick's memorable touches was to have his hero sing "Singin' in the Rain" while dishing out a brutal beating.

By now seclusion was setting in seriously, and Mr. Kubrick made only four films in the next 27 years, starting with "Barry Lyndon."

He announced in 1974 that he was setting permanently in England, although it was rumored he was continuing to keep American time — sleeping during the day and working at night. He refused to give interviews, and his isolation was so complete that in 1996 an English impostor successfully impersonated him for several months before being found out. (AP, AFP)

ALGERIA: Election Brings Ray of Hope

Continued from Page 1

guerrilla group that launched the war. In September, the retired general who held formal power as Algeria's president, Liamine Zoual, stunned the nation by announcing his resignation 19 months before the end of his five-year term, ushering in the April ballot.

Many Algerians have concluded that a faction among the generals, known as "the conciliators," have been so shocked by the years of violence that they have concluded that they must begin transferring at least a measure of power to elected politicians if Algeria is to have any hope of ending its crisis. "Just like the power structure in the Soviet Union, we have been ruled by a monolith, but it is a monolith with deep internal fissures," said Hocine Ait Ahmed, a 73-year-old presidential candidate who was one of the nine men who, in 1954, met secretly in France to found the National Liberation Front, the group that led the Algerian war against France that ended in independence in 1962.

"The generals are divided among themselves," he said, "and that has given us a small opening that we must not fail to exploit."

Mr. Takdjour's laid-back demeanor in the Casbah was emblematic of the new, more hopeful mood. Only 18 months ago, edicts by the Armed Islamic Group, a breakaway guerrilla faction known for its brutality, imposed a fearful conformity on the Casbah that included mandatory attendance at prayers, bans on cigarette smoking and on the sale of a popular tobacco snuff known as *chemza*, and on the playing of music of any kind. There was also a prohibition on women venturing out unveiled or unaccompanied by close male relatives.

Since the cease-fire, the level of violence has plunged, to the point where fewer than 200 people died in terrorist attacks during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan that ended in February, compared with more than 1,600 in the same period in 1998.

Even former partisans of the two political extremes, the generals and the Islamic hard-liners, seem to have been so alienated by the violence that they have turned against intolerant politics of all shades.

"The Islamists? They are rubbish, killers and thieves, nothing more," said Mr. Takdjour, his face shaded by a sailor's cap acquired when he worked in the customs house in the port of Algiers. That was before strife and plunging oil prices sent the Algerian economy into a free fall, before he lost his job, and before Islamic guerrillas burst into the home of his brother Omar, a police officer, and shot him to death in front of his wife and children.

Like scores of other Algerians interviewed in recent days, Mr. Takdjour seemed equally disillusioned with the military rulers. "They're finished now, the Islamists, and good riddance to them, I say," he said. "But it's finished for the generals, too. Algeria's going to be a democracy, you'll see. It's the international pattern, isn't it? Why should Algeria be an exception?"

Not all Algerians are as quick to write off the Islamic guerrillas or the political party, the Islamic Salvation Front, which won the support of half the country's voters in the aborted election in December 1991. With the party banned and its leaders imprisoned or under house arrest, there is no way to know the Islamic group's intentions. Foreign reporters, required to be accompanied everywhere by government bodyguards, are told that the Islamic leaders are not available for interviews.

The same goes for Mr. Zoual and the country's most powerful generals, making it hard to assess how they see the future, particularly the prospect that the April ballot might lead eventually to a South Africa-style investigation into the past and into alleged government involvement in massacres.

The Armed Islamic Group, at any rate, still shuns the cease-fire and accounts for dozens of victims each month. Recently, the group was blamed for an attack in the western Algerian town of Ain Defia in which nine members of two families were killed as they slept.

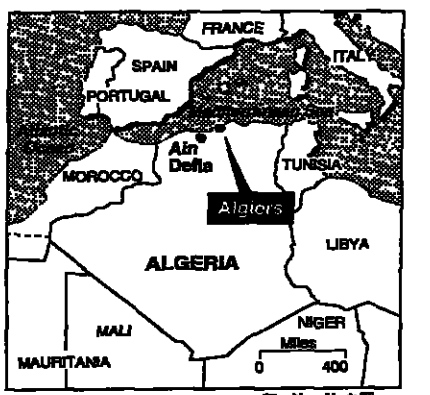
The group has continued to tie up a huge Algerian security force, possibly as many as 500,000 soldiers and police officers. Little is known about it beyond the fact that some of its leaders trained as Algerian volunteers in the Muslim guerrilla struggle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Western intelligence estimates have put its current strength at about 3,000 men, but even this is little more than a guess.

Adding to the general uncertainty, Algerian politics remain extraordinarily opaque, as they have been since the army swept aside the first president, Ahmed ben Bella, only three years after the independence war ended.

In the late 1980s, riots in Algiers and other cities forced the generals to accept a multiparty political system and an independent press. But much remains unknowable. The men who exercise real control remain shielded from public view, visible only when their armored cars race up the hillside to heavily protected compounds overlooking the Bay of Algiers.

Some things about the forthcoming presidential election have run ominously true to past form.



Two parties that effectively are controlled by the military oligarchy, the National Liberation Front and the closely linked National Democratic Rally, have chosen as their candidate Abdelaziz Bouteflika, a 61-year-old former foreign minister. Mr. Bouteflika's last role here was in the 1970s, under the dictatorial regime of the country's first military ruler, Houari Boumedienne.

Editors of the independent newspapers that have sprung up in Algiers in the 1990s say they have little by which to judge Mr. Bouteflika, because he had made no public comments on Algerian issues in years.

More important, since entering the election, he has made no policy statements and held no news conferences. Presenting his nomination papers this week, Mr. Bouteflika said, "Just as some people exercise their right to speak, I exercise the right to remain silent."

Among the candidates arrayed against him are several with long histories of serving as civilian ministers in military-led governments. Three of these are former prime ministers, including an engineer, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, 61, who issued the edict voiding the December 1991 elections in which the Islamic Salvation Front appeared headed for a parliamentary sweep.

The field also included a moderate Islamic leader, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. Mr. Ibrahimi, a 67-year-old physician who spent five years in French prisons for his role in the independence struggle, was a stalwart of military-led regimes through much of the 1970s and 1980s, rising to foreign minister. But partly because his father was a leading Islamic scholar, he is expected to draw support from voters who gave their ballots in 1991 to the Islamic Salvation Front.

But Mr. Ibrahimi and several other candidates remain fearful of a backlash by a hard-line military group known among Algerians as "the eradicators," from their adoption of a military policy in the early years of the violence that sought to eliminate the Islamic guerrillas and their political leaders by whatever means necessary.

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Japan's Gamble on Interest Rates Poses Serious Risks to Yen and Economy

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — The central bank has pushed overnight interest rates to an unprecedented low of effectively zero in one of its boldest experiments yet to invigorate the economy — basically allowing Japanese banks to borrow for free.

The Bank of Japan's move last week, which was one of the factors cited in the 5 percent surge in the Japanese stock market Friday, represents a gamble that banks will use this borrowed money to increase their own lending to businesses and individuals. The hope is that such a move will stimulate spending and generate a recovery in the world's second-largest economy, which is stuck in its worst recession since the end of World War II.

Lending rates in the overnight money market, a critical part of the banking system, have been well below 1 percent for a while — a sign of how fragile both the weakly capitalized banks and the economy have become over the past few years.

Last month, the Bank of Japan announced it would bring rates down to 0.15 percent. Last week, the central bank poured about \$10 billion to

\$15 billion into the market each day, and the rates fell to 0.04 percent, then to 0.03 percent, then to 0.02 percent, then to 0.01 percent on Thursday. On Friday, the rate settled at 0.02 percent.

That means the rate is less than one-two-hundredth the comparable level in the United States. At such a rate, a bank could borrow \$1 million overnight and pay just 27 cents in interest the next day.

Whether the astonishingly low rates will work is not yet clear. There are significant hazards to the approach — a massive flight of capital as investors seek higher returns in investments overseas, for example, or a plunge in the value of the yen. The Japanese currency did fall to a three-month low of 123.72 to the dollar in Tokyo on Friday, and some forecasters now say it could weaken to 130 fairly soon and far further later this year.

The biggest risk is that even with such low borrowing costs, the Bank of Japan may still not be able to coax banks to borrow and use that cheaper money to expand lending to companies throughout the country.

A critical problem now is that banks have been so absorbed in treating their mountains of bad debt that they have been simply unwilling to

make new loans and have even been cutting their lending.

"This is still a trial period," said Kazuo Momma, an official at the Bank of Japan. "It takes time to evaluate what is happening in the market."

On Friday, at least, the market liked it. Encouraged by the central bank's moves earlier in the week, as well as a formal application for public money by the nation's biggest banks, investors sent stocks rallying in the biggest one-day surge this year. That pushed the benchmark Nikkei 225 share average up 710.55 points, or 5.01 percent, to 14,894, its highest level since December.

The Bank of Japan's moves also brought down long-term bond rates, which last month were triple the level of October. The government is trying to get the economy with more spending, and this has spooked investors who had dumped bonds and sent their yields soaring. Higher yields can choke an economic recovery by raising long-term borrowing costs.

The yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond, a benchmark for long-term rates, fell to 1.57 percent Friday, a three-month low. The Bank of Japan was able to reduce

overnight lending rates by flooding the overnight money market with funds. The \$230 billion market is the lifeblood of the banking system and is a commonly used tool for banks and other financial institutions to borrow and lend short-term cash.

"It's amazing," said Akihiko Yokoyama, a fixed-income analyst at J.P. Morgan in Tokyo. "Can you imagine who would lend out money at zero percent?"

The answer seems to be: fewer and fewer lenders. And that could emerge as a problem. Insurance companies and investment trust funds no longer want to park their money there, and are putting it into regular bank deposit accounts or into longer-term money markets, such as one-month or three-month maturities.

Bank of Japan officials are suggesting that they may next try to lower interest rates in the money markets for one-month or three-month borrowings. But that could ultimately lead to capital flight, as investors move money abroad for higher returns.

"It's definitely a problem at the moment," said Clifford Shaw, president of Mercury Asset Management Japan Ltd. "Having rates at zero has all sorts of implications."



Pedestrians in Tokyo walking past a board showing the sharp rise in the stock market Friday.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending March 5. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Cr/Yd

Australian Dollar

209 Queensland Trs 4 1/2 04/14/05 104.5000 4.2200

210 Perseus Moe 4 1/2 04/15/07 102.4250 4.2100

246 Queensland 8 04/14/07 115.4 4.3500

British Pound

100 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

101 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

102 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

103 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

104 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

105 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

106 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

107 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

108 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

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Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending March 5. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Cr/Yd

Australian Dollar

209 Queensland Trs 4 1/2 04/14/05 104.5000 4.2200

210 Perseus Moe 4 1/2 04/15/07 102.4250 4.2100

246 Queensland 8 04/14/07 115.4 4.3500

British Pound

100 Lloyds 4 1/2 12/17/98 95.5500 4.7200

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Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Cr/Yd

Australian Dollar

209 Queensland Trs 4 1/2 04/14/05 104.5000 4.220

Privacy Issues Prompt Change to Windows

Microsoft to Remove Identifying Numbers

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp. has moved to defuse a potentially explosive privacy issue by saying it will modify a feature of its Windows 98 operating system that has been quietly used to create a vast database of personal information about computer users.

In a decision announced Saturday, Microsoft in effect conceded that the feature, a unique identifying number used by Windows and a handful of other Microsoft products, had the potential to be far more invasive than a traceable serial number in Intel Corp.'s new Pentium III computer chip that privacy advocates up in arms.

The difference is that the Windows number is tied to an individual's name, so identifying numbers on the hardware

in the user's computer and even to documents that the user creates.

The combination of the Windows number with all these data, the privacy advocates said, could result in the ability to track a user and the documents he created across vast computer networks.

Hackers could compromise the resulting database, or subpoenas might allow authorities to gain access to information that would otherwise remain private and unavailable. Privacy advocates fear that availability will lead to abuses.

"We're definitely sensitive to any privacy concerns," said Robert Bennett, the Microsoft group product manager for Windows. "The software was not supposed to send this information unless the computer user checked a specific option."

Mr. Bennett said the option to collect the information had been added to the software so that Microsoft support employees would be able to help users diagnose problems with their computers more accurately. He said the software giant had never intended to use the data for marketing purposes.

Microsoft said it would take the steps after a computer programmer in Massachusetts discovered the numbers attached to documents that he had created. The programmer, Robert Smith, told Microsoft that he believed the practice created a potential threat to privacy.

Mr. Bennett said Microsoft would alter the way the registration program works in the next maintenance release of Windows 98. He said the company's technicians would look through its databases and expunge information that had already been collected as a result of earlier versions.

The company is also exploring the possibility of creating a free utility program that would make it possible for Windows users to delete the serial-number information from a small database in the part of Windows known as the registry, where it is now collected.

Mr. Smith, who is president of Phar Lap Software Inc., a software tools development company, contacted Microsoft last week after discovering that the Microsoft Office business software was creating unique numbers identifying his personal computer and embedding them in spreadsheets and word-processing documents.

Mr. Smith indicated that the hardware identifier was being sent to Microsoft even when he instructed the registration program not to send it. The discovery brought to light what Mr. Bennett contended was a programming error.

Microsoft officials said last week that they were using the number in the company's software in an effort to find a

Piracy Verdict In China Goes To Microsoft

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — Microsoft Corp. has won its first court case in China against illegal copies of its products, in what a state-run newspaper Sunday called a landmark verdict against rampant software piracy in the country.

A Beijing intermediate court awarded damages of about \$800,000 yuan (\$97,000) to the U.S.-based software maker after finding that two Chinese companies had pirated Microsoft products, the China Daily reported, quoting unidentified court sources.

According to the verdict, Beijing Seastar Science & Technology Development Co. installed Microsoft's Windows 95 and Office 97 on its computer line without Microsoft's approval. In addition, Beijing Min An Investment Consulting Co. failed to get authorization before installing Microsoft's animation software, Windows 95.

"The court victory has greatly enhanced our confidence for China to wall off the pirate software in the industry," the paper quoted Tom Robertson, an attorney for Microsoft, as saying.

U.S. software companies say that illegal copying of their

See SUIT, Page 19

See MICROSOFT, Page 19

Chinese Deficit to Grow 57% To Deal With Social Problems

Reuters

BEIJING — China must massively increase its budget deficit if it is to keep the economy growing fast enough to deal with mounting social problems, Finance Minister Xiang Huacheng has told the annual session of the National People's Congress.

Mr. Xiang said Saturday that the deficit would rise 57 percent to a record 150.3 billion yuan (\$18.6 billion) as the government pours money into infrastructure in an effort to hit its target of 7 percent growth.

"If we do not continue to adopt these measures," he said, "it will be hard to increase domestic demand, and economic restructuring will be hampered."

"It will be difficult to maintain steady growth of the national economy, and the problem of unemployment will become outstanding," Mr. Xiang added. "Revenue will drop, and we will be in financial straits."

The economy grew 7.8 percent last year, thanks to heavy spending on infrastructure.

While such growth might look excellent amid the Asian crisis, Beijing has much to worry about as it struggles toward a market economy, including the restructuring of a floundering state sector, rising unemployment, and social unrest linked to a reduction in social services. Export growth is flagging, foreign investment is slowing and domestic consumption is flat.

"This year, we still face a grim situation," Deputy Prime Minister Wu Bangguo told delegates. "The impact of the Asian financial crisis on China may increase, the export sector is likely to face more difficulties and pressures from unemployment could become more serious."

The budget calls for a 14.7 percent rise in expenditures, to 738.9 billion yuan, this year and a 7.3 percent increase in revenue, to 588.6 billion yuan.

The deficit will amount to just 1.7 percent of gross domestic product, but a prominent economist said China could not rely on government spending forever and urged Beijing to spur consumer spending and allow small companies to play a greater role.

"This year we cannot let public finance continue to play this main role," said Wu Jinglian of the Development Research Center, which is under the State Council, or cabinet.

"If we do so, its effectiveness will decrease," he told reporters. "From a long-term perspective, it will bring problems."

The top state planner, Zeng Peiyan, said that meeting the 7 percent growth goal this year would be tough.

"We have the capacity to reach this target, but we will have to work very, very hard to attain it," he said.

Mr. Zeng singled out reforms of the credit banking system as a key task for this year, saying that Beijing should gradually establish asset management companies to clear bad loans.

Flights of Fancy

All the major U.S. airlines now offer last-minute weekend fares at deep discounts over the Internet. Customers can sign up on the airlines' Web sites to receive weekly e-mails listing the offers. These are some of the domestic trips that were offered recently.

Airline/Website	Sample routes	Round-trip airfare	
		Last-minute Internet deal	14-day advance purchase
American Airlines www.aa.com	Boston — Phoenix Chicago — San Diego	\$183 \$203	\$421 \$422
American Airlines www.aa.com	New York (La Guardia) — Miami Dallas/Fort Worth — San Francisco	\$139 \$169	\$554 \$636
Continental Airlines www.continental.com	Newark — Jacksonville, Fla. Newark — Washington	\$149 \$ 79	\$435 \$192
Delta Air Lines www.delta-air.com	Atlanta — Washington Houston — Salt Lake City	\$108 \$138	\$174 \$332
United Airlines www.usa.com	Chicago — San Francisco Chicago — Rochester Denver — Washington	\$219 \$129 \$210	\$360 \$217 \$559
Trans World Airlines www.twa.com	St. Louis — Atlanta Tulsa, Okla. — New York (La Guardia) Philadelphia — Colorado Springs	\$129 \$179 \$219	\$329 \$584 \$708

*Some carriers impose a surcharge for tickets bought over the telephone.

Source: United Airlines

The New York Times

'E-Fares' Cut the Cost of Impulse Travel

Rock-Bottom Prices on Internet Create Army of Long-Weekend Warriors

By Edwin McDowell
New York Times Service

SEATTLE — Atop the observation deck of the 605-foot-high Space Needle, Douglas Brown pointed out Mount Rainier, the towering snow-capped peak in the distance. Next he told his wife where the distinctive white ferries would be plying heading as they clung across Puget Sound. Afterward, he remarked that, in this coffee-loving city, it was not unusual to find espresso machines in gas stations.

But these were not your everyday tourists. Douglas and Gladys Brown, who live in the Queens borough of New York City, were eager volunteers in the small but growing army of long-weekend warriors: travelers who journey the country, and often the world, on fares available only on the Internet.

And not just any Internet fares, but the rock-bottom, last-minute ones known as e-fares, generally offered at midweek for the following weekend's travel.

Among the e-fares offered in recent weeks have been round trips between Chicago and Philadelphia for \$129, Houston and Boston for \$229, and Newark and Rio de Janeiro for \$399 — each roughly half the lowest coach fare.

The Browns are among the tens of thousands of travelers who use e-fares to good advantage. Eager for his wife, who was born in Argentina, to see her newly adopted country, Mr. Brown has traveled with her in recent months to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, San Antonio, Chicago, and Orlando, Florida. Before long, the couple hope to use e-fares to visit Argentina, where Mrs. Brown will assume the role of tour guide.

In the meantime, their 4,800-mile round trip between New York and Seattle, where Brown lived for six months in 1995, cost them a bargain-basement \$239 each — roughly 5 cents a mile. That compares with an industry average of 13.1 cents a mile for trips in 1997, the latest year for which figures are available.

"E-fares are almost always the cheapest fares available on the Internet, averaging 5 to 15 percent lower than 14-day advance fares," said Michael Stellwagen, a former pricing analyst with Southwest Airlines and now with Warburg Dillon Read in New York.

These fares are not for creatures of habit or those who prefer a relaxing weekend at home to a whirlwind visit to another city. They are also not for workaholics or people who have trouble making up their minds: When an airline sends out a mass e-mailing announcing a flight and fare that suits you, you've got to jump.

So who is darting to e-fares? Many buyers fall into three categories: separated lovers, people who make repeat visits to relatives or friends, and people hungry for adventure. What they have in common are flexible work schedules, spontaneity and usually no small children.

Sheldon Smith of Arlington, Virginia, and his wife, Sue Wadel, are typical of

those who thrive on the spontaneity that e-fares demand. Last fall, they traveled to Madrid on impulse, and last month, on a lark, they spent four days in Frankfurt. They have the flexibility to travel at the last minute, said Mr. Smith, who does radio and television voice-overs.

Millions of people sign up with one or more airlines to receive free e-mails that list the fare offers for the weekend. To stand the best chance of getting a ticket, they must respond quickly — usually within a day, though less popular routes may still be available on Fridays. They can book by e-mail or, for an extra \$20 a ticket, by phone.

For domestic travel, many E-fares require a Saturday departure and a Monday or Tuesday return, though there are variations.

American Airlines, which originated the weekend getaways in 1996 to fill seats that would otherwise have stayed empty, now has 2.1 million subscribers. All the major United States airlines now take part.

While airlines decline to say how many people use e-fares or how much revenue they generate, American said its monthly revenues "are into seven figures." That means at least \$12 million a year, and while that is minuscule compared with American's estimated 1998 passenger revenue of \$16 billion to \$17 billion, it can pay for a lot of in-flight snacks and overtime. Airlines derive additional revenue from the discount rates they arrange for e-fare passengers with certain hotels and rental car companies.

The fares are made possible by computers, which analyze trends and then predict, often far in advance, roughly how many empty seats there will be on a given flight. Computer analysis also helps airlines to determine how many seats they can fill at Fare A, Fare B and so on, which explains why some passengers pay two or three times as much

as their seatmates — or even more.

On the Browns' nonstop flight to Seattle fares ranged from their \$239 to \$1,828 for a same-day coach ticket. (One oddity of the complex new world of air travel is that last-minute travelers can pay both the highest and lowest fares.) Airlines try to calculate all the angles. While few Saturday flights carry business travelers, whose higher fares pay most bills at most airlines, leisure travelers abound on Saturday mornings, Mr. Stellwagen explained.

Airlines allow e-fare passengers to depart on Saturday morning and return on Monday, a busy travel time, as well as on Tuesday, because if they insisted on e-fare travel only at off-peak times, the gateways would either be too compressed or would cut further into the workweek, and not enough people would buy e-fares to make it worthwhile.

Despite the popularity of e-fares, some critics complain about the paucity of seats to desirable cities in high seasons, while others say the short span between the posting of the week's destinations and the departures leaves little time to arrange for a day off or for the care and feeding of children or pets.

"It's true that some markets like Boston and Florida show up rarely," said Ken Bott, manager of Internet marketing for Continental. E-fares, he pointed out, are for flights on which airlines have empty seats, "and we only have seats available when the rest of the universe isn't trying to go there."

Posting available flights sooner, airline officials say, could disrupt their system-wide price structure, which must accommodate a range of discounts, including 7-day, 14-day and 21-day advance purchases. Besides, Mr. Bott added, e-fares are focused on a very narrow subset of travelers — those who have the time, money and desire to travel on weekends.

CYBERSCAPE

Swatch Sets Its Dial for Internet Time

By Amy Harmon
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — When Gustavo Carreno, a 29-year-old computer consultant, received an electronic message at his office in Lisbon last week asking for an appointment to talk about universal time, an old concept recently repackaged by Swatch Group, he sent the following response:

"Well the thing is, I'm not that good on converting time, but I think there is a -5 hour of difference between Portugal/Lisbon and New York, meaning that you'll have to add 5 hours to your local time to get my time. So the best thing to do is to say that I'll be available at my work force from @416 'till @791."

So it was that at @786, or 1752 Greenwich Mean Time, Mr. Carreno explained his enthusiasm for what Swatch, the world's largest watchmaker, is calling "Internet time." This way, when he meets with friends and colleagues on-line, they "have an understanding," he said. "It's @786 all around the world."

The Swatch scheme, which divides the day into 1,000 "swatch beats" equivalent to 1 minute and 26.4 seconds each, is unabashedly commercial. The system's meridian is located, conveniently enough, over the Swatch building in Biel, Switzerland, where midnight is @0000. Swatch's watch that tells Internet time, among other things — which is already on sale in Europe — appears on the U.S. market this month.

But the company has also made software that displays Internet time on a computer screen available free from Swatch's site on the World Wide Web. About 45,000 people downloaded it in January.

Perhaps it is not surprising that the notion of a world without time zones strikes a chord even among some of the more gimmick-weary Internet users. With its capacity to collapse distance, the computer network has already managed to alter the physics of space. And whether or not Internet time as a Swatch catches on, the Internet seems to be responsible for an increasing impatience with time as it has been kept thus far.

"There is something screwed up about our sense of time," said Danny Hillis, a computer scientist who is spearheading an effort to build a clock that will strike once every 10,000

Truce Effort Raises Hope Of Cooling Banana War

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CHEVENING, England — As the World Trade Organization prepared to take up the escalating trade dispute between the European Union and the United States over banana imports, Britain and the United States sought to ease tensions, agreeing on the need for urgent talks to resolve the dispute.

The British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, speaking after a meeting here Saturday with his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, said both sides felt a solution to the deepening dispute over banana imports should be found as soon as possible.

The EU sought an emergency meeting of the 134-member General Council, the WTO's highest permanent policy-making body, after the United States said it would impose 475 million euros (\$515 million) of tariffs on exports to the United States from all the 15 EU member countries except Denmark and the Netherlands. Washington says the tariffs are in retaliation for EU banana-import rules that discriminate against U.S. companies; the EU says the tariffs flout WTO regulations.

"We cannot allow this dispute to damage relations between us," Mr. Cook said. "We both need an urgent resolution and both agreed to seek one."

He gave no details of when the proposed EU-U.S. talks might take place but said he had made clear once again how displeased Britain was with Washington's actions at imposing the sanctions before receiving WTO approval.

The United States, which has been warring with Europe over bananas for the better part of a decade, said it would impose the 100 percent tariffs, retroactive to Wednesday, on EU goods ranging from cashmere sweaters to leather handbags, although it said it would not collect the fees until the WTO had backed its position against the EU.

The State Department spokesman, James Rubin, accompanying Mrs. Albright to the talks at Mr. Cook's official residence at Chevening, said that "what we did was to protect our rights."

"We did not retaliate yet," he said. "What we did was protect our rights to receive the compensation that the WTO said it would provide by March 3. That decision now looks like it will take a few more weeks. We will impose the restrictions only when the WTO makes the decision, and we will comply with the decision."

The dispute directly affects relatively few jobs and concerns less than 1 percent of the total commerce between the United States and the EU. But it has raised alarms that the EU may retaliate with its own sanctions and that the banana dispute — coupled with fights over U.S. beef and aircraft exports to Europe — may poison trade talks scheduled to be held in the United States in November.

Meanwhile, Caribbean leaders meeting in Suriname threatened Saturday to pull out of a security and trade treaty with the United States, saying the trade dispute could have disastrous consequences for their economies, many of which are rely heavily on banana exports. (Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg)

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates				March 5				Other Dollar Values				March 5			
Currency	\$	£	¥	CS	Dane	Greek	Swede	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
London (0)	1.6097							Argentina	0.9999	Yuan, PRC	8.2756	Sw. Krona	4.624		
New York (0)	1.6097	1.4685	122.75	1.5192	6.854	297.21	8.243	Australia	1.5959	Indian Rupee	42.515	S. Afr. Rand	6.1875		
Tokyo	123.35	198.46	133.84		80.99	17.94	N.Q.	14.90	Brazilian Real	2.04	Indo. Rupee	890.000	Pakistani Rupee	93.75	
Toronto	1.5205	2.4412	1.0344	1.2405		0.2214	0.5115	0.1839	Chilean peso	66.25	Israeli Sheq.	4.844	Phil. Peso	50.12	
Zurich	1.4685	2.3423		1.2004	0.9483	21.4256	0.4949	0.1783	Chinese Yuan	8.2756	Kor. Won	106.234	Polish Zloty	3.77	
									Czech Koruna	34.57	Leban. Pound	1508.00	Russian Ruble	23.01	
									Egypt. Pound	34.188	Malay. Ringgit	2.30	Saudi Rial	3.75	
									Hong Kong \$	7.7459	Mexican peso	9.275	Singapore \$	1.7225	
One euro	1.0634	0.6737	1.5912	123.19	1.6489	7.4324	321.95	8.9355							
One SDR	1.3537	0.841	1.9824	165.625	2.065	9.2627	401.41	11.1883							

Indebted rates excluding commissions. In Tokyo one pound is 70 yen one dollar. *Per 100 N.Q.: not quoted N.Q.: not available.

SDR: Special Drawing Rights of the IMF. Source: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo) Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto) Banque de France (Paris) IMF (Washington) Other data from Reuters.

Euro Values
Euro rates of the ECU are permanently fixed.
Aust. Schilling 13.7603
Belgium/Lux. Franc 40.3399
Dutch guilder 3.6033
French franc 6.5595
German mark 1.9363

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, March 5

Stocks Dr Yld High Low Chg

Stocks	Dr	Yld	High	Low	Chg
AA					
AAA					
AAAB					
AAAC					
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INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

Bourses Broaden Cooperation

London and Frankfurt to Publish Response to New York

PARIS — The London and Frankfurt stock exchanges will publish proposals in the next few days on bringing their regulations, trading hours and indexes into line with each other to create a common market for Europe's largest companies, representatives of the exchanges said over the weekend.

Their plans for a common trading system in Europe became more urgent when the New York Stock Exchange said Feb. 23 that it might extend trading hours to between 5 A.M. and midnight as it competes head-on with markets in Europe and Asia.

"The threat from the U.S. is going to speed up the negotiations in Europe," said Philippe Desmumet, a fund manager at Group Boursier in Paris.

The document from the London and Frankfurt exchanges will set out the exchanges' proposals to harmonize their rules. If all goes well, negotiations will then begin on the final stage, the creation of a common company that after 2000, will own and operate a pan-European exchange for the 300 European biggest stocks.

That may not be possible unless other exchanges join soon. The London and Frankfurt exchanges are already in talks with six of Europe's largest stock exchanges — Paris, Zurich, Milan, Madrid, Amsterdam and Brussels.

The Paris exchange has said it wants to join the new system, though it reacted with indignation to moves by London and Frankfurt

Profit Slump Cuts Salaries Of Merrill Lynch's Bosses

By Joseph Kahn
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The rising tide of executive pay did not lift all boats on Wall Street last year, with the top bosses at Merrill Lynch & Co. taking pay cuts to reflect the firm's profit slump.

David Komansky, chairman and chief executive, saw his total pay drop by 10.8 percent, to \$9.9 million from \$11.1 million in 1997. Total compensation for Herbert Allison Jr., chief operating officer, dropped by a similar percentage, to \$7.87 million from \$8.82 million.

The smaller paychecks came after Merrill posted weak results for 1998. The securities firm suffered losses on its bond holdings after Russia defaulted on its debt in August, prompting a temporary but deep plunge. Merrill cut 3,400 jobs, many of them in its fixed-income division. Most bankers at the firm received flat or reduced bonuses.

"It makes very clear to investors as well as employees that Komansky puts his money where his mouth is," said Joan Zimmelman, a vice president at GZ Stephens Inc., an executive search firm. "When the firm's profits are down, people expect senior executives to feel the heat of it."

The top bosses had little choice but to take a hit this year, said one Merrill banker who asked to remain anonymous. The firm frequently says employee compensation will be tightly linked to performance and profit, and the people at the top can hardly exempt themselves, he said.

There would have been a revolt around here if they paid themselves more," he said. "This is not a year anyone was thrilled about."

Other Wall Street executives did better. Lehman Brothers paid its chairman, Richard Fuld, \$13.3 million, an increase of 18 percent from 1997. Philip Purcell, chairman and chief executive of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., took home total pay of \$31 million, including an exceptional options grant. His annual pay increased about 8 percent.

Profit at both Lehman and Morgan rose by about 15 percent last year.

Departure of Brazil Oil Chief May Open Privatization Door

RIO DE JANEIRO — The resignation of the head of the Brazilian state-controlled oil company, Petrobras, is a signal that the cash-strapped government is ready to sell off a chunk of the huge, secretive company, analysts said.

Joel Renno, who headed Petrobras Brasileiro SA for six years and modernized its operations, said late Friday that he had finished his job and he would be replaced immediately by Transport Director Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira, who becomes acting president.

Mr. Renno prepared the Rio-based company, Brazil's largest in terms of assets, for competition after 46 years of monopoly over oil and gas rights.

Speculation has been rife that Mr. Renno would be replaced by Luiz Carlos Mendonça de Barros, a former communications minister, who led the privatization of the Telebras telecommunications system in July. Petrobras share prices have soared since rumors about the accession of Mr. Mendonça surfaced at the end of last month.

Analysts said Mr. Renno tightly gripped the reins of power, running Petrobras as if it were a branch of the government. His wariness of the private sector meant Petrobras negotiated for years on such cooperative projects as the Bolivia-Brazil gas pipeline, they said.

After the government set up an independent regulator, which started to strip Petrobras of its monopoly, the company began to pay more attention to shareholder concerns about earnings and investment returns.

A foreign oil company official said: "Petrobras has been held back by the current management. A change would be welcomed. It would probably mean they were looking to sell at least a part of it."

Government officials have insisted they are not planning a controversial privatization of the company, although there are plans to reduce the state's stake to 50 percent plus 1 share.

For years Petrobras was reluctant to share information. Under Mr. Renno's tenure, the company actively started counting publicity and trimming costs to get in shape for competition from big foreign oil concerns.

Recently, Petrobras has been scrambling to forge partnerships to meet deadlines on exploration and production imposed by the new regulator.

Separately, an International Monetary Fund spokesman said he expected to be able to announce Monday a new credit lifeline for Brazil, after weeks of talks on how to save Latin America's powerhouse economy from a deep currency crisis.

Shalendra Anjaria said he expected IMF management to recommend Brazil receive a second payment in a \$41.5 billion package of loan guarantees.

MARKETS: Global Pressures

Continued from Page 1

Stock Exchange. "The old methods of exchanging stocks just no longer meet the needs of the investing community."

That community has undergone drastic change in recent years.

Unprecedented numbers of Americans are trading stocks, directly and through mutual funds, and pension plans. Moreover, they have easier access to the markets than ever before, thanks to low-cost on-line brokerage accounts, Internet investing sites and the new trading networks. Finally, they and investors elsewhere in the world are more readily investing money in companies and markets far from their homelands.

All of this has touched off a stunning acceleration in the competition among the institutions that provide stock-trading services, said Richard Grasso, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

The exchange and Nasdaq, which are not-for-profit associations accustomed to competing only with one another, now face a plethora of new private trading networks called electronic communications networks.

The owners of these trading services aim to profit by providing an electronic meeting place where stocks can be traded and by collecting commissions on each trade.

In addition, the New York exchange, a U.S. leader in international stock trading, is anticipating a foreign threat. Now that Europe has a single currency, a pan-European stock exchange may soon emerge, perhaps this year.

To be sure, this competition is driving down the commissions that investors pay to trade.

"Competition can create confusion, but on balance, the individual investor is being empowered," said Hans Stoll, a finance professor at Vanderbilt University.

But that confusion is unsettling, many market participants said.

"The technology is the tail wagging the dog," said Scott Sabar, a former trader and senior vice president at VIE Systems Inc., an institutional software provider. "No one is saying: 'Is this the best way? How will this impact the market?' They just say, 'We can do this and make money.'"

Mr. Grasso said he expected to report to the board by the end of June his opinion on whether the New York Stock Exchange should build or buy its own electronic network for trading stocks not listed on the exchange.

But if the Big Board readily trades stocks of companies that have not met its tough listing standards, it may have more difficulty enforcing those rules, Mr. Coffee said.

Some of those standards provide important protections for U.S. investors, he added. For example, the New York exchange requires listed companies to have wholly independent audit committees and a majority of independent directors — neither of which is required under federal securities laws.

Mr. Grasso insisted that protecting the standards and reputation of the exchange would be paramount as his board considered adding a second trading service.

The boom in electronic communications networks was actually encouraged by rule changes intended to improve the Nasdaq market.

Those changes allowed electronic communications

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Slowdown Is Predicted For Britain

But It Is Unlikely to Last, Upbeat IMF Report Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund on Sunday predicted a sharp downturn in British economic growth this year and said there was room for further cuts in British interest rates.

But an upbeat IMF review of the British economy also said that the slowdown was not likely to last. Britain's tax position was solid, monetary targets were working well and the independence of the Bank of England made policy more credible, it said.

"Directors commended the authorities for the United Kingdom's impressive economic performance in recent years and their skillful management of the economy," said the report, summarizing a March 3 review.

"Directors agreed that slower growth was in the offing, following a number of years of good growth performance."

"With both public and private sector fundamentals quite strong and structural policies oriented toward strengthening incentives, the slowdown should be short-lived," the report added.

The IMF said it expected Britain's gross domestic product to increase 0.8 percent this year, down from 2.5 percent in 1998 and 3.5 percent in 1997. Inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, would rise to 5 percent from 4.7 percent in 1998.

"The balance of risks remains largely on the downside, relating in particular to uncertainties about the global economic outlook," the IMF said.

"Directors saw scope for further monetary easing to avoid an excessive weakening of economic activity," it added.

Britain has already cut interest rates five times in an effort to stimulate its slowing economy, although the Bank of England left rates unchanged at 5.5 percent at its last meeting, which took place Wednesday.

The IMF said Britain's monetary targets had led to "timely and judicious" changes in British interest rates. "Several directors noted the important role the operational independence granted to the Bank of England had played in enhancing policy credibility," the report said.

The IMF makes a review of the economies of each of its 182 member countries every year.

(Reuters, AFP)

Bargain-Hunting? Try U.S. Nuclear Plants

By Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

FOR SALE: Five buildings on 1,600 acres of woodland, Cape Cod Bay via 26 years old. Original owner. Good condition.

PLYMOUTH, Massachusetts — The property that was put on the market last summer was a nuclear plant — the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station here — and that alone might have made it a tough sell.

Nuclear energy has been very unpopular in the United States since the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island. And the opening of electricity markets in states like Massachusetts adds to the financial risks of running a nuclear plant. The costs of plant shutdowns, for instance, can no longer be passed along, with the blessing of regulators, to customers. And the operator no longer has a monopoly.

For these reasons, Pilgrim's owner, Boston Edison Co., had said that if a buyer could not be found, the plant would be shut down and decommissioned sooner rather than later. For Plymouth, a town of nearly 50,000 and the home of Plymouth Rock, the loss of its biggest employer would have been a huge blow.

So the 670 managers and employees of the Pilgrim plant were understandably nervous when teams of executives from other utility companies toured the plant to see if they wanted to make a bid. The floors and walls of the plant glistened; the telephones were even polished by hand.

While the offers did not exactly pour in, two bids were eventually made for the plant. Entergy Corp., a huge utility based in New Orleans, was the winner with a \$80 million bid. It was only the second sale of a nuclear plant in the United States.

It is a buyers' market, but the fact that there is a market at all in nuclear plants is a sign of how deregulation is reshaping the U.S. power industry. Entergy, along with companies like

Peco Energy Co. and Dominion Resources Inc. are in the forefront of a group of bargain-basement shoppers who see remaining value in nuclear energy. Instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars or more to build a new power plant capable of generating the same amount of electricity, they are able to buy older nuclear plants for tens of millions — a mere fraction of their book value.

(The last reactor to be built in the United States was ordered in 1973.) These companies, which own more than one nuclear plant, say they have developed the skill and size to run nuclear plants more efficiently. The possibility of costly operating shutdowns does not frighten them, they say, because they will have the needed expertise, personnel and equipment should a problem arise.

And the price is so cheap that it pays to take on the generally higher costs of operating nuclear power plants, compared with that of running other electricity sources.

Nuclear plants in newly open markets in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey are particularly attractive. Under deregulation, a number of the utilities in those states are shrinking to become transmission companies.

They will concentrate on the delivery of electricity and on providing service to business and residential customers. Utilities like



Employees of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, who helped sell it, gathered in front of the facility in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, for example, will buy power at the lowest price from pools where companies like Entergy, Dominion and Peco will sell power.

The buyers of nuclear plants contend they can thrive in such open markets. When the plants are run well, they can compete on price with low-cost plants that run on hydropower, coal and natural gas. And local nuclear plants are particularly attractive compared with power plants outside the region, which face more expensive transmission costs.

"People who are buying the nuclear plants are very smart," said Robert Rubin, a utility analyst with Bear, Stearns & Co. Despite the image of nuclear power as an industry with no future, he said, it has many years of life yet.

Mr. Rubin estimates 25 to 30 plants will soon change hands or be shut down.

Schroeder Shrugs Off Effect of Pay Raises on Job Talks

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said Sunday that recent higher-than-expected pay increases for public sector and engineering workers should not jeopardize his government-sponsored job creation plan.

Mr. Schröder said the Alliance for Jobs project, which brings employers and unions together to try to find a solution to reduce Germany's chronic unemployment, was a long-term plan and should not be endangered by short-term goals.

In an interview with Deutschlandfunk radio Sunday, the chancellor criticized employers for threatening to withdraw from the Alliance for Jobs talks after the new labor contracts.

"I didn't sign the engineering deal," Mr. Schröder said. "There are two signatures there, one from the unions, one from the employers. I don't understand how you can sign a pay deal, then afterwards say to the government, which had nothing to do with it, that the deal was wrong. That is astonishing behavior."

Employers were furious after the recent round of pay talks, which saw public sector workers receive a 3.1 percent pay raise and engineering workers secure a 4 percent increase.

"If you look at the public sector settlement over 12 months, then the settlement averages out at just over 2.3 percent," he said. "That is a reasonable result."

Mr. Schröder made job creation the corner-

stone of his election campaign, and the Alliance for Jobs has come through two rounds of talks with agreement reached on corporate tax restructuring and job training programs.

Mr. Schröder's administration has suffered numerous setbacks since it came to power in November, particularly his backtracking on key bills to reform citizenship laws and to phase out nuclear energy.

The chancellor played down talk of dissent within his coalition of Social Democrats and Greens. The partnership worked well, he said, even though things had not always run as smoothly as he would have liked.

"All in all, we cooperate in a very orderly way," Mr. Schröder said.

MICROSOFT: Identifying Number in Windows to Be Removed

Continued from Page 15

unique identifier to keep components from colliding with one another in an increasingly complex web of networked computers.

But Mr. Smith said the number had created a "digital fingerprint" that could be used to match a document created by a word-processing or spreadsheet program with a particular computer.

On Thursday, after further studying the "registration wizard" — the software module that enables customers to register their copies of the Windows 98 operating system for support and updates — Mr. Smith discovered that the number, known as a Globally Unique Identifier, was being transmitted to Microsoft as part of a list of registration information that generally includes the owner's name, address, phone number, certain other demographic information and details about what hardware and software are on or attached to the user's computer.

"Microsoft never asked me if it was O.K. to send in this number, and they never said it was being sent," Mr. Smith said. "They are apparently building a database that relates Ethernet adapter addresses to personal information."

Ethernet adapters are cards inserted in a computer that enable it to connect to high-speed networks within corpora-

tions, and from there out to the Internet.

The controversy erupted just weeks after Intel agreed to change a small software utility that came with the new Pentium III so that a serial number on the chip would be inactive unless the computer user switched it on.

Privacy activists have been attacking both companies, arguing that identification numbers can be easily misused to permit the creation of dossiers of personal information about individuals or electronic monitoring systems that track a computer user's behavior in cyberspace.

The issue has sparked a heated debate over the fundamental technology of modern computer networks and software systems, which routinely employ serial numbers to identify individual computers and software modules known as "objects" that can be shared by a number of programs.

But the final number identified only a computer. The Windows number identifies a person. And because the Windows number created a potential linkage between individuals and confidential documents they created, privacy advocates said they were outraged.

"I think this is horrendous," said Jason Catlett, president of Fankbushers, a consumer privacy organization.

"They're tattooing a number into each file. Think of the implications. If

some whistle-blower sends a file, it can be traced back to the person himself. It's an extremely dangerous feature. Why did they do it?"

Privacy groups have long warned about the dangers of centralized information and electronic monitoring.

The privacy community has been discussing the implications of the Intel Pentium III serial number with Intel, and while some privacy advocates acknowledge that the number can play an important role in protecting both privacy and security, others have called for a boycott of Intel, arguing that the likelihood of misuse of the number is extreme.

Beyond the fear of a centralized Big Brother, they add that the rise of the Internet has made it possible for individual companies to freely use detailed personal information for commercial ends.

"The problem is the absence of legal rules that limit the collection and use of personal information," said Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington.

"It's clear to me that large Internet companies such as Microsoft, AOL and Netscape will try to squeeze out privacy," he added, referring to America Online Inc. and the browser maker Netscape Communications Corp.

New 3M Plant In Singapore

Bloomberg News

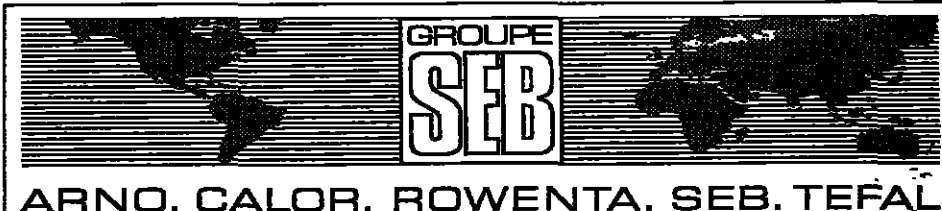
SINGAPORE — Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. opened a plant in Singapore on Sunday valued at 400 million dollars (\$231.5 million).

The company said its new factory would make microflex, or circuits that connect semiconductor chips.

In four years, the plant is expected to produce half the U.S.-based company's microflex, with the rest being made in Japanese and U.S. factories.

Microflex accounted for between 1 percent and 3 percent of 3M's sales of \$15.02 billion last year.

The investment is a shot in the arm for Singapore, which needs to create jobs after it slid last year into its first recession in 13 years.



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A setback that does not impact our long-term strategy

Statement of income (in millions of euros)	1998 FRF	1998 €	1997 €
Sales	11,569	1,763.7	1,806.0
Operating income	754	114.9	213.2
Net financial expenses	(111)	(16.9)	(14.8)
Operating income after financial expenses	643	98.0	198.4
Restructuring charges	(266)	(40.5)	(8.1)
Incentive bonus and profit-sharing schemes	(93)	(14.2)	(36.9)
Other charges	(2)	(0.4)	(3.6)
Amortization of trademark and goodwill	(66)	(10.0)	(4.8)
Income before income taxes	216	32.9	145.0
Income taxes	(165)	(25.1)	(54.9)
Minority interests	1	0.1	(10.6)
Net income of SEB SA	52	7.9	79.5
Earnings per share (in francs/euro)	341	0.52	518
Net income + allowance for depreciation	686	100.0	154.3

Chairman's message to shareholders

For Groupe SEB, 1998 was a year of important contrasts. For the first time in our history, our sales declined, and our earnings were negatively affected by the economic crises in Asia, Russia and Latin America. At the same time, we took a decisive step towards meeting the objectives in our Ambition 2000 plan to globalize our business by gaining control of Arno, Brazil's leading electrical appliance manufacturer, and Volmo, the market leader in the Andes Pact nations. With these acquisitions, your Group now has an exceptional industrial and marketing presence in all of Latin America.

Today, we have manufacturing and marketing bases in all of the world's major markets and our sales are more or less evenly spread among France, other European countries, the Americas and the rest of the world.

Although the setback in 1998 was severe, it will in no way jeopardize our future. What is more, it does not change the fundamentals of our strategy to globalize our major product families. We will continue to build on the foundation laid down in the last few years.

The very sudden decline in business in 1998 did, however, lead us to adjust our strategy. We booked nearly € 60 million (FRF 450 million) in exceptional items, which led to operating income of € 115 million (FRF 754 million) and net income of € 8 million (FRF 52 million). All of these figures are in line with our announcement at the end of 1998.

We responded quickly to the new business situation worldwide so as to be in a position to meet our long-term objectives. This is the goal behind the two-year Rebound 2000 plan, which covers four main areas:

- We have focused our research resources and our industrial and advertising spending on a smaller number of products that correspond to our major strategies and core businesses.
- We have enhanced our opportunities for growth by opening new subsidiaries or offices in Australia and South Africa and by gaining higher control over our operations in China.
- We are adjusting our manufacturing resources in France, Colombia and China.

Lastly, we are adapting our investments to take account of market trends and we are speeding organizational change based on a shared vision of a company managed by product lines and by markets, with a common support structure and information system.

Groupe SEB remains strong, and it can count on solid fundamentals:

- We have a unified core shareholder base that consolidated further in 1998 to ensure the stability and sustainability of our long-term strategy.
- We have extremely well known international brands. Every second, four consumers around the world choose a Groupe SEB product.

Our capacity for innovation is intact, as can be seen in the large number of new and major products introduced in the first quarter of 1999.

We control a worldwide distribution network, which is of crucial importance for building our future growth and profits.

Aside from our traditional base in France and Germany, we have manufacturing resources in all the major world markets, including the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Russia and China.

Although our financial resources were reduced by the some € 410 million (FRF 2.7 billion) spent on investments and acquisitions over the past two years, they are still very strong and will allow us to finance our anticipated development.

Business conditions were difficult in 1998. The global outlook for 1999 varies greatly from country to country, and our sales expressed in euro will decline again due to the halt in Russian demand and the devaluation of the real.

We are currently overcoming the difficulties encountered last year. Backed by your confidence and the commitment of all our team members, who are implementing the numerous Rebound projects, I am convinced that in two years' time we will return to a level of sales and earnings more in keeping with our past performance.

With this outlook in mind, the Board of Directors will propose at the Shareholders' Meeting to maintain the dividend.

Jacques Gairard

The Annual Shareholders' Meeting will be held on May 3, 1999 at 2:30 p.m. at Pavillon Gabriel, 5 Avenue Gabriel - 75008 Paris.

First quarter sales announcement: April 12, 1999

Internet: <http://www.groupeseb.com> - <http://www.rtfline.com>

SUIT:

Piracy in China

Continued from Page 15

products costs them \$1 billion in sales in China each year. They have been encouraging Beijing to create a high-level bureau to deal with intellectual-property rights.

Chinese software producers will also cheer the court's decision, said Yin Zhihe, executive chairman of the Beijing Software Industrial Association.

"The verdict of the court is sure to be a good thing for software makers," the paper quoted Mr. Yin as saying. "It indicates China is increasingly serious attitude toward these illegal actions."

Illegal copying of software also costs Chinese software producers at least 10 billion yuan a year in sales, the state-run Xinhua press agency said last November.

The piracy continues in spite of the government's assertion that it has shut down at least 72 illegal compact-disk production lines in the past two years, leaving industry sales stagnant at a time of a boom in the use of computers.

Chinese companies routinely set aside only a small fraction of their planned information-equipment expenses for purchases of computer software, spending most of the funds on hardware. (Bloomberg, AFP)

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WILSON MARKET

[illegible]

This table shows the performance of Hurdnet's limited annual funds through February and includes the total of 4,000 funds in terms of assets. There are roughly 6,000 funds currently listed on Hurdnet.

Group names are shown in bold face, with fund names in italics in each group indicated below. Individual fund names are part of a group are not indicated.

NAV is the net asset value, i.e., the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding. NAV is reported by the fund through Hurdnet, NAV ending the last full month of the year. NAV is not reported for all sales or redemption charges. Changes shown are from the previous Friday.

Minimum fund footcandle: c = available only through contract; f = full fund and contingent; n = non-distribution sales load; p = full fund and contingent; r = redemption fee; s = redemption fee or contingent; and w = sales load may apply. f - footcandle p and w.

Price differential footcandle: c = net capital gain; f = full fund and contingent; n = non-distribution sales load; p = full fund and contingent; r = redemption fee or contingent; and w = sales load may apply. c - net capital gain; f - full fund and contingent; n = non-distribution sales load; p = full fund and contingent; r = redemption fee or contingent; and w = sales load may apply.

SPORTS

Despite Scandal, Many IOC Delegates Remain Loyal to Samaranch

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN—Even as critics around the world clamor for his resignation, Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, still appears to enjoy strong support from IOC delegates—many chosen by Mr. Samaranch himself—who fear a vicious succession fight could destroy the Olympic movement.

But as the IOC prepares for an emergency session March 17 and 18 to deal with corruption charges that have implicated a fifth of its members, people involved in the Olympics worry that the close-knit IOC will refuse—or is unable—to take the kind of dramatic steps needed to restore the Games' luster.

In the wake of the scandal surrounding the Olympic bidding process, Mr. Samaranch has come under particular pressure from the United States.

Speaking privately, officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee said they have told Mr. Samaranch "in no uncertain terms" that he must step down soon. They said they spelled out the dangers for the Olympic movement if he stays on and if the IOC fails to adopt democratic

reforms to restore credibility among the public and corporate sponsors.

But inside the closed world of the IOC, where personal loyalty to Mr. Samaranch is strong, a far different dynamic is at work. The vast majority of delegates owe their positions to the Spaniard: Until the time of the scandal, Mr. Samaranch personally had selected 92 of the 114 IOC members.

Since the Salt Lake City scandal broke nearly four months ago, Mr. Samaranch has rejected calls that he be held accountable and has brushed aside claims that his fondness for exorbitant gifts during his 18-year tenure may have nurtured a climate of corruption in the IOC.

Interviews with more than a dozen IOC delegates suggest that Mr. Samaranch is likely to survive a vote of confidence at the meeting this month because he is seen as the only authority figure who can carry out reforms deemed necessary to restore credibility to the organization.

"The captain of our ship must remain at the controls until we get through the storm," said Richard Pound, an IOC vice president from Canada who is often mentioned as a leading candidate to succeed Mr. Samaranch. "When we come out at the other end, then we can

decide on the future of our leadership. But it's premature to do so in the middle of a crisis."

Anita De Frantz, one of two American IOC members, said, "He rescued the Games from political boycotts and from bankruptcy. He brought women into the IOC and more female athletes into Olympic competition. We owe so much to him that I believe he deserves the chance to finish his term on a high note by leading the reform drive."

Mario Vazquez Rana, president of the Mexican Olympic Committee, said that while he viewed criticism of the IOC as "positive and necessary," he could not accept laying any blame on the man at the top.

"No IOC member has any motives to criticize Samaranch," he said. "Quite the contrary, I believe all see him with respect and admiration as their leader, because of the way he has guided the destiny of the Olympic movement."

Although Mr. Samaranch is 78 and appears at times to be in failing health, the absence of an anointed successor is testament to the manner in which he has cut down potential rivals.

In 1995, Mr. Pound was poised to seize the leadership after winning praise for conducting negotiations that reaped

a fortune for the IOC in Olympic sponsorships and broadcasting rights. But when he sought to block Mr. Samaranch's effort to prolong his stay in office by extending the retirement age to 80, Mr. Pound found himself isolated by the rest of the IOC membership.

Angered by what he saw as Mr. Pound's unseemly bid for power, IOC sources said, Mr. Samaranch then shifted his patronage toward Kim Un Yong, a former deputy director of the South Korean intelligence agency during an era of brutal military dictatorship who was promoted to the IOC executive board after his stewardship of the 1988 Seoul Games. Mr. Kim rapidly built a solid bloc of supporters in Asia, Africa and Latin America that began to pose a formidable challenge to Mr. Pound's narrower backing in Europe and North America.

In 1996, Mr. Kim nearly managed to shove Mr. Pound off the executive board by putting up a challenger—with Mr. Samaranch's blessing—for the Canadian's seat. Mr. Kim's candidate, Ashwini Kumar of India, who was regarded as little more than the South Korean's lackey, lost to Mr. Pound by only two votes.

But Mr. Kim stands accused of using

his influence to secure lucrative consulting jobs for his son and concert dates for his pianist daughter in the Salt Lake City scandal. Even if he escapes expulsion as the highest-ranking IOC member to become implicated in the scandal, Mr. Kim's chances of succeeding Mr. Samaranch seem badly damaged.

Mr. Kim has angrily denied the bribery allegations and accused Mr. Pound of using his role as head of the IOC investigation to undercut Mr. Samaranch and sabotage Mr. Kim's candidacy.

"Such persistent attempts to smear both my reputation and the leadership of President Samaranch are political and designed to undermine the stability of his leadership, as well as to affect the succession of his presidency," Mr. Kim told reporters after the charges were made public.

Mr. Kim dismissed as "too risky" any possibility that Mr. Pound and other members of the commission would recommend his expulsion in the days before the IOC session is convened.

"When the time comes, I will fight back," Mr. Kim said. "I have a lot of ammunition."

As for Mr. Pound, IOC sources said Mr. Samaranch may have handed him a poisoned chalice by appointing him to

review ethical misconduct of other members.

Other presidential candidates, all former Olympic athletes, are said to include Jacques Rogge, an orthopedic surgeon from Belgium and executive board member who heads the European Olympic committees; Kevan Gosper, an Australian executive board member who heads the IOC's press commission and has been active in preparing the Sydney Games; and Jean-Claude Killy, the French skier and businessman who carries a touch of celebrity glamour but also enough political guile to remain aloof from internal wrangling over the scandal.

Mr. Samaranch has staked the future of his presidency on a vote of confidence in a new formula for selecting the host city for the 2006 Winter Games, which must be approved by two-thirds of the IOC's 108 members.

Under the formula, IOC members will lose their cherished travel privileges to inspect candidate cities. Those visits became the proximate cause of the bribery scandal, as IOC members were showered with gifts that, in some cases, involved cash payments, scholarships and lucrative jobs for family members as a way of garnering their support.

Duke Routs Tar Heels to Capture ACC Championship

Compiled by Our Staff Press Dispatches

Duke seized a piece of Atlantic Coast Conference history, and now awaits the NCAA tournament as a team in full command.

The No. 1 Blue Devils (32-1) routed No. 15 North Carolina, 96-73, in the conference championship game Sunday, completing an unbeaten run through the ACC regular season and postseason.

William Avery had 29 points and Elton Brand scored 24 for Duke (32-1), which won its 27th straight game and denied the Tar Heels (24-9) a chance at a third consecutive ACC title.

North Carolina had enjoyed good luck against Duke in previous ACC title games, going 6-2 against the Blue Devils. But Sunday's game in Charlotte, North Carolina, was another matter.

The Blue Devils shot 60 percent in the opening half—with their injured 3-point ace, Trajan Langdon, on the bench—to go up by 16 in the opening 20 minutes. The strong start by Duke came against a Tar Heels team seeking to avenge a 20-point rout by Duke eight days ago in the Smith Center.

Duke's lead reached as many as 24 with a 10-0 run to start the second half as Brand scored on a shot in the lane and a dunk, and Avery sank a 24-foot 3-point shot.

But the Tar Heels had one more rally in them before falling to one of the more talented teams in ACC history. A 14-0 run by North Carolina got them back in the game, closing within nine with 10:28 left.

Duke, however, sensed a piece of ACC history and went for the kill.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE In Atlanta, Scott Padgett scored 20 points and the No. 4 Kentucky Wildcats used a 16-0 spurt at the end of the first half and the beginning of the second to beat No. 22 Arkansas, 76-63, in the championship game of the Southeastern Conference tournament.

The Wildcats (25-8), who get the SEC's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, won their third straight tour-



Slobodan Savovich of Ohio State pulling away from Lucas Johnson of Illinois in the first half in Chicago.

nament title and seventh in eight years—a remarkable streak that has included only one loss in 24 games. That came in the 1996 final against Mississippi State. Arkansas, which joined the SEC for the 1991-92 season, has never won the tournament, losing twice to Kentucky in the finals.

The Razorbacks (22-10) jumped to a 19-6 lead less than five minutes into the game, only to see the defending national champions bounce back as they always seem to do at this time of year. Kentucky closed the first half with an 8-0 run to slice Arkansas' lead to 40-39. Padgett, the tournament MVP, hit a 3-pointer, and Heshimu Evans scored the final four points, including a pair of free throws with five seconds remaining after drawing a charge from Kareem Reid.

The Wildcats went ahead for good by scoring the first eight points of the second half. Padgett missed two shots

under the basket but kept working the boards, finally putting in his third attempt to put Kentucky ahead for the first time, 41-40.

BIG TEN Illinois, which entered the Big Ten tournament seeded 11th out of 11, pulled off its third straight upset to reach the title game.

The Illini (14-17) beat No. 11 Ohio State in Chicago, 79-77, on Saturday for its third straight victory over a ranked opponent in as many days. The Illini started Big Ten play 6-7 and did not win a conference game until late January before finishing 3-13.

Cory Bradford, a freshman, scored 17 points, hitting six free straight free throws in the final 1:19, as the Illini blew a late 11-point lead and survived a wild finish to beat the Buckeyes (23-8). Michael Redd scored 32 points, hitting 11 of 18 field goal attempts, to lead Ohio State.

Illinois faced Michigan State, which is ranked No. 2, in the final. The Spartans beat No. 19 Wisconsin, 56-41, in the other semifinal.

Michigan State (28-4) trailed 18-8 in the first half, but fought back to tie the score at 22 at halftime and then held Wisconsin (22-9) scoreless for nearly 11 minutes either side of halftime.

MAA 12 In Kansas City, Oklahoma State held on to beat top-seeded Texas, 59-57, in the semifinals of the Big 12.

Adrian Peterson hit the front end of a one-and-one free throw to give the fifth-seeded Cowboys (22-8) a two-point lead with nine seconds to go.

Texas (19-12), the regular-season Big 12 champion and winner over Oklahoma State in 10 of their last 11 meetings, ruined itself with turnovers in the final 1:30 by Ivan Wagner and William Clay.

In the other semifinal, Jeff Boschee scored six in the final 1:35 to help Kansas beat Kansas State, 69-58. (AP, NYT)

Huskies Win Big East By Trampling St. John's

The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Connecticut won its second straight Big East tournament title, trouncing 10th-ranked St. John's in Madison Square Garden, 82-63.

The victory brought the Huskies their third conference championship in four years and their fourth of the 1990s. Connecticut also had the best regular-season conference record six times this decade.

Connecticut started the game with a 13-0 run that looked like an edited highlight film. After missing their first shot of the game, the Huskies made their next six—the first three by Richard Hamilton—while forcing three turnovers.

Only 2:42 had elapsed when St. John's (25-8), trailing 13-0, called a timeout.

Hamilton finished with 23 points for Connecticut. Khaled El-Amin had 15 points and tournament MVP Kevin Freeman nine, giving him 52 for the three games.

MAA 8 Utah 60, No. 25 New Mexico 45 Alex Jensen scored 18 points as Utah capped a perfect Western Athletic Conference season by winning the league tournament in Las Vegas. Utah (27-4) won its 22d straight as it beat New Mexico for the third time this year.

RHODE ISLAND 62, Temple 59 In Philadelphia, Lamar Odom hit a game-winning shot that gave Rhode Island (20-12) the victory over Temple in the Atlantic 10 championship game.

With 6.1 seconds left and the game tied 59-59, Odom got the ball near half-court and drove down the left sideline. He stopped about 22 feet from the basket and released the ball. It swished through as the horn sounded.

NEW MEXICO STATE 79, Boise State 69 In Reno, Nevada, New Mexico State beat Boise State to win the Big West championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament. The Aggies (23-9) were blown out in their two regular-season meetings with Boise State (21-8).

WEBER STATE 82, N. Arizona 75 Weber State (24-7) beat Northern Arizona (21-8) to win the Big Sky Conference tournament in Ogden, Utah. Weber State's ball-hawking defense produced nine steals and forced 13 turnovers.

FLORIDA A&M 64, S. Carolina St. 61 In Richmond, Virginia, seventh-seeded Florida A&M upset top-seeded Carolina State to win the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. The Rattlers (12-18) are the 15th team to make the NCAA tournament with a losing record.

ALBANY 82, Southern U. 63 Wallace Harris scored 22 points as Albany State (22-6) snapped Southern's 20-game home-court winning streak in Baton Rouge. The victory gave the Braves their first Southwestern Athletic Conference tournament championship since 1984 and an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO 71, Southwest Texas 63 Steve Meyer scored 26 points as Texas-San Antonio (18-10) beat Southwest Texas State in the Southland Conference championship game "at Shreveport, Louisiana, to earn its second trip to the NCAA tournament.

NORTH CAROLINA-CHARLOTTE 88, Louisville 58 North Carolina-Charlotte earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament by beating Louisville in the Conference USA final.

A quirk in the conference rules made Charlotte (22-10) the fifth seed, even though it had the fourth-best record in the conference. Only the top four seeds got a bye in the first round. That meant the 49ers had to win four games and face Cincinnati, ranked seventh nationally, in the semifinal.

DELAWARE 66, Drexel 67 In Newark, Delaware, John Gordon scored 17 second-half points to lead top-seeded Delaware (25-5) over Drexel for its second straight America East championship and an automatic NCAA bid.

OREGON STATE 89, No. 6 Stanford 45 Josh Steinhardt scored 19 points as Oregon State muddled the NCAA tournament seeding in the West by upsetting visiting Stanford (25-6, 15-3 Pac-10) in a Pac-10 regular-season game.

Deamundra Tanner added 17 points for the Beavers (13-14, 7-11) and outplayed Stanford guard Arthur Lee, who was held to six points after scoring a total of 50 in his last two games.

NO. 13 ARIZONA 87, No. 12 UCLA 70 In Tucson, Jason Terry, the Pac-10 player of the year, scored 26 points in his final home game as Arizona beat UCLA.

Devils Down the Islanders Brodeur Sharp in Goal, Turning Away 19 Shots

Compiled by Our Staff Press Dispatches

NHL ROUNDUP

Dennis Pederson and Petr Sykora each scored a goal and assisted on another as the New Jersey Devils climbed to within two points of the Eastern Conference lead with a 4-2 victory over the New York Islanders on Sunday.

Brendan Morrison and Patrick Elias also scored as the visiting Devils (35-21-8) closed in on the Ottawa Senators for best conference record. Ottawa has two games in hand on New Jersey.

Martin Brodeur stopped 19 shots for his 29th victory.

The Islanders got goals from Sergei Nemchinov and Robert Reichel and extended their winless skid to four games (0-3-1). Tommy Salo turned aside 25 shots in net.

Morrison opened the scoring 2:56 into the game. He had a breakaway against Salo, but was hooked by Ted Donato. Salo then misplayed the puck, which went through his pads and into the net. Elias made it 2-0 at 14:52 when he took a pass from Sykora, faked a backhand toward Salo, switched to a forehand and nipped the puck past the fallen goalie.

The Islanders got on the board at 9:39 of the second period when Nemchinov banged home Mike Watt's cross-ice feed. Sykora scored his 22d goal at 12:59 on a slap shot from the right side during a four-on-four situation. Pederson knocked a shot down and then banged home a rebound during a power play at 14:41 for a 4-1 Devils lead.

Reichel's right-point one-timer caught the far right corner during an Islanders power play at 17:48 to cut the deficit to 4-2.

IN GAMES PLAYED SATURDAY:

FLORIDA 3, New York 3 New York had taken a three-goal lead late into the third period, but the Flyers' rally started with 3 minutes, 6 seconds left with host Philadelphia scoring once, then again.

Then, with less than a minute remaining, Eric Lindros, the Flyers' hulking center, barreled over two Islanders on his way to the goal, where he swatted the puck away from the New York goalie, Tommy Salo, and stuffed it into the net with 51 seconds left, completing Philadelphia's comeback to earn a tie.

FLAMES 4, Kings 1 Cory Stillman and Jarome Iginla each had a goal and an assist and Valeri Bure scored on a breakaway as Calgary won in Los Angeles, dealing the Kings their fourth straight loss and extending the Flames' unbeaten streak on the road to five games.

CAROLINA 2, Florida 2 Scott Mellanby scored an unassisted power-play goal in the third to give Florida a tie with visiting Carolina.

MONTREAL 4, St. Louis 0 Jean-Pierre Dumont scored two goals and Josef Macha had one—the first of the season for both and the first of Dumont's career—as Chicago won in San Jose.

LIGHTNING 3, Canadiens 1 Wendel Clark scored three goals as Tampa Bay scored six points for the first time this season and snapped Montreal's five-game home winning streak.

SEATTLE 3, Maple Leafs 1 Ron Tugnutt made 25 saves as host Ottawa won a battle of the top two teams in the Northeast Division.

CAPITOL 4, Oilers 3 In Washington, Adam Oates had a goal and two assists in a four-goal second period as Washington beat Edmonton, ending the Oilers' five-game unbeaten streak. (AP, NYT)



Roger Clemens firing his first game pitch as a member of the Yankees.

Clemens Loses in Yankee Debut

Compiled by Our Staff Press Dispatches

Roger Clemens started his Yankee career with a pre-season loss, pitching three innings as a New York aquad lost to the Kansas City Royals, 9-1.

Clemens, who said he threw his fastball at 75 percent to 80 percent of its normal speed in the game Saturday, gave up three runs and seven hits. But more unusual than the "L" next to his name in the box score was the "NY" on his cap.

"There's nothing funny about it," Clemens said of his new uniform. "Ever since the first couple of days in camp, I've felt comfortable with this."

Sammy Sosa, meanwhile, took a 1-0 lead over Mark McGwire in home runs. Last year, McGwire hit a towering homer in his team's spring opener before going on to hit a record 70 regular-season home runs. This year, he flied out to center and was hit by a pitch in his two plate appearances in the St. Louis Cardinals' 4-3 loss to the Montreal Expos in his 1999 debut.

In Arizona, Sosa—who hit 66 last year, a home total second only to McGwire's in major-league history—connected for a two-run shot off Chandler Martin in the third inning of the Chicago Cubs' 11-7 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

The Baltimore Orioles are set to play the Cuban national team in Havana on March 28. A second game in Baltimore remains a possibility.

Overcoming State Department objections, representatives of Major League Baseball, the Orioles and the Cuban government reached an agreement Saturday night to play the game, a participant in the meeting said. State Department officials also were at the meeting. The participant said the Cuban representatives still had to get final approval from Havana and that the Major League Players Association had to agree to the game. (AP, NYT)

Ewing Lifts the Knicks He Scores 30 as N.Y. Deals Nets 3d Straight Loss

The Associated Press

After missing buzzer-beaters that would have won the Knicks' previous two games, Patrick Ewing made sure there would be no need for any late-game heroics Sunday.

Ewing scored 18 of his 30 points in a third-quarter outburst, and New York won its eighth-straight home game, beating the reeling New Jersey Nets, 97-86.

Ewing, whose 31 points at Miami last Tuesday and 24 at Milwaukee on Friday were overshadowed by his last-second misses, shot 14-for-21 with nine rebounds and four blocks. Allan Houston added 17 points and Chris Childs had 15.

Keith Van Horn had 22 points and Kerry Kittles scored 21 for the Nets, who lost their third straight and dropped to 3-14 overall. Doug Overton gave New Jersey a boost by playing almost the entire second half and scoring 18 points, but the Nets missed 13 of their final 15 shots after pulling within two points with 5:04 left.

The Knicks, who began a stretch of playing seven of nine games at home, improved to 8-1 at Madison Square Garden. Ewing made nine-of-11 shots in the third quarter, including four straight baskets for New York after the Nets had pulled to 53-49.

Ewing's outburst helped the Knicks restore their lead to double-digits, and Childs made it 75-62 extending the fourth by banking in a 60-foot (18-meter) shot at the buzzer.

Pacers 85, Heat 72 Reggie Miller scored 16 points and Rik Smits added 14 as the Pacers, coming off their worst loss of the season, beat visiting Miami.

Indiana lost to Miami by 11 points in their first meeting at Market Square Arena three weeks ago and by 19 points to Golden State on Friday, their only home losses of the season. This time, the Pacers built a 16-point lead and held off the Heat in the closing minutes.

Reserves scored Indiana's first 17 points of the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer by Sam Perkins and another basket by Perkins on a go-ahead call against Clarence Weatherspoon to give Indiana a 75-59 lead.

IN GAMES PLAYED SATURDAY:

SPURS 114, Clippers 85 Tim Duncan scored 27 points and the San Antonio Spurs handed the visiting Clippers their 15th straight loss. The Clippers are just two games shy of the record of 17 consecutive losses at the start of the season set by the Miami Heat in 1988 and just one short of their franchise record of 16 straight losses in 1994-95.

MAGIC 87, Pistons 82 Ike Austin scored a season-high 23 points and Penny Hardaway and Nick Anderson made two key baskets down the stretch to help Orlando stop Detroit's six-game winning streak.

KINGS 111, Suns 99 Jason Williams scored 24 points to lead six Sacramento players in double figures as the Kings won in Phoenix.

CAVALIERS 97, Warriors 80 In Cleveland, Shawn Kemp scored a season-high 31 points and grabbed 14 rebounds and Brevin Knight returned from an injury to provide a defensive spark in the victory.

ROCKETS 107, Grizzlies 82 Michael Dickerson scored a career-high 26 points as Houston won in Vancouver to extend the Grizzlies' losing streak to seven games. Scottie Pippen added 17 points, 7 assists and 7-rebounds.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Aussies Look Strong

CRICKET Glenn McGrath grabbed his 12th five-wicket haul in Tests as Australia continued the West Indies' misery before lunch on the third day of the opening Cable & Wireless cricket Test at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on Sunday.

The West Indies, resuming on 167 for nine, lost their final wicket to the last ball of the day's opening over from McGrath without adding a run. The visitors, with a first innings lead of 102, extended that to 145 by the interval, reaching 43 for one despite a break of 21 minutes because of light rain.

The 29-year-old McGrath finished with five for 50 off 14 overs as the West Indies collapse from Saturday evening was completed. Overall, the home team's last seven wickets fell for 18 runs after the captain, Brian Lara, was run out for the top score of 62.

Sri Lanka was off to a confident start after Pakistan set for it a challenging 385-run victory target on the fourth day of the Asian Championship Test match Sunday in Lahore.

The left-handed opening pair of Russel Arnold and Avishka Gunawardene rattled up 60 runs in 14 overs before bad light brought a premature end to the day's play. Arnold was batting on 15 while the hard-hitting Gunawardene hit six fours during his unbeaten innings of 36 before play was called off. Eighteen overs were yet to be bowled. (AP)

Dennis Violet Dies at 65

SOCCER Dennis Violet, the former Manchester United striker, has died following a long illness, the club announced Sunday.

Violet, who was 65, survived the Munich air crash in 1958 which claimed the lives of so many of his teammates. He died in the United States on Saturday and had reportedly been suffering from a brain tumor.

Edmund missed Fiorentina's Italian-league match Sunday, but club officials said it was because the striker was injured and had nothing to do with reports that he had been sentenced to four and a half years in jail by a Brazilian court.

A Rio de Janeiro court found Edmund responsible for a traffic accident in December 1995 in which three people died. The court has indicated it will demand Edmund's extradition from Italy to serve his sentence. (AFP)

Phillips Wins Playoff

GOLF Van Phillips beat a fellow Briton, John Bickerton, at the first extra hole of a playoff Sunday to win the Portuguese Open in Penina.

Both players shot final-round, four-under-par 68s for aggregates of 12-under-par 276, three shots ahead of Robert Karlsson. Santiago Luna and Alex Cejka. (Reuters)

Irvine Survives Havoc to Capture Australian Prix

MELBOURNE — Eddie Irvine opened the Grand Prix season Sunday with his first Formula One victory.

Of the 21 starters, only eight drivers finished the Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park. Irvine, in his 82d race, beat Heinz-Harald Frentzen of the Jordan team by one second, with Ralf Schumacher of Williams coming in third.

Irvine said: "I was just pushing like hell. It's fantastic to win a race for Ferrari. The current car is the best I've ever driven."

But even though Ferrari won the race, its cars were clearly not the fastest on the track. Mika Hakkinen, the reigning champion, had led in the early laps only to drop out when his new McLaren developed problems. Irvine said: "Today, the torque beat the horse."

Hakkinen and his teammate, David Coulthard, started from the first two positions on the grid. Hakkinen then opened an 18-second lead over Irvine in

just 15 laps. Hakkinen looked uncatchable, but when Jacques Villeneuve lost the rear wing of his British American Racing car and hit a wall, bringing out the safety car, Irvine was able to close the gap as drivers slowed while the track was cleared.

When the race resumed, a throttle-linkage problem cut Hakkinen's speed, and Irvine blasted past the champion. By that time, Coulthard had dropped out with gearbox problems.

Last season, Irvine frequently sacrificed his chances of victory. He let Michael Schumacher, Ferrari's No. 1 driver, overtake him five times. Over the winter, the Irishman declined several offers to become a No. 1 driver elsewhere and chose to stay in what he calls the second-best job in Formula One, even though it limits his hopes of the drivers' championship.

Schumacher was never in a position Sunday to pass Irvine. Schumacher stalled on the last warm-up lap and was

sent to the back of the grid. He then shredded a tire and smashed his car's nose cone. He was also hampered by steering problems and limped home one lap behind Irvine as the last car to finish.

Schumacher said: "Naturally I'm not happy with my race today, but at least we both finished."

After passing Hakkinen, Irvine stayed in the lead — although Frentzen ran him close — and said the last few laps were like qualifying circuits.

Irvine said: "It was fairly straightforward, really. I was driving around wondering who I should thank and whether I should beat Zanardi to the doughnut. It was just plodding along to the finish."

Alex Zanardi, the former CART champion who celebrates victories by spinning his car and leaving a burnt rubber "doughnut" on the tarmac, failed to finish in the first race of his return to Formula One.

The race had an aborted first start

when the Stewart Ford cars of Rubens Barrichello and Johnny Herbert suffered electrical faults and were shrouded in smoke. Barrichello was given the reserve car, but Herbert was left without a ride.

After the race started, Damon Hill of Britain lasted only as far as the third corner, where he was nudged off the track by Jarno Trulli. It was a dismal way for the 1996 champion to mark his 100th Grand Prix.

Jean Alesi stalled his Sauber on the grid and was dragged off. The mishaps continued throughout the race as driver after driver was forced out.

Giancarlo Fisichella finished fourth in a Benetton, while Barrichello recovered well to finish fifth in the Stewart reserve car. Pedro de la Rosa came in sixth for Arrows; his teammate, Tora Takagi, was seventh, in a strong result by the team.

Barrichello was docked 10 seconds for passing Schumacher when the safety car was out, and the team said the penalty might have cost it victory. (AP, Reuters)



Eddie Irvine celebrating his victory Sunday in the season's first race.



David Beckham of Manchester United, left, battling Graeme Le Saux of Chelsea on Sunday.

Stalemate for Chelsea and Manchester

MANCHESTER, England — The top two teams in the English Premier League met in an FA Cup quarterfinal Sunday, and drew, 0-0.

Chelsea, which is second in the league, played with only 10 men for more than half the match at Manchester United, the leader, but defended superbly to ensure that the two teams will play again at Chelsea's home stadium in West London on Wednesday.

Roberto Di Matteo, a Chelsea midfielder, was sent off just

seconds before the end of the first half after receiving a second yellow card for an illegal tackle on Paul Scholes. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, rested Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke who have scored 43 goals between them this season.

Although United dominated the second half, it could not score. Scholes, guilty of a number of glaring misses, was sent off himself in the 86th minute for a second yellow card.

Elsewhere Sunday, Alan Shearer sealed an FA Cup semi-

final berth for Newcastle when he kicked the Magpies' fourth goal in a 4-1 rout of Everton at St. James' Park.

Newcastle's Georgian striker, Temuri Ketsbaia, scored two goals and set up Shearer for the clincher.

In the draw for FA Cup semifinal places, Newcastle was picked to play the winner of the Tottenham-Barnsley quarterfinal — postponed because of snow — while the defending titlist, Arsenal, will face the winner of the United-Chelsea replay.

Lazio Holds Steady in Italy With Rout of Salernitana

Salas Scores Twice in 7 Minutes in 6-1 Comeback Victory

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Marcelo Salas scored twice in seven minutes as Lazio overpowered Salernitana, 6-1, on Sunday in Rome to keep its four-point lead atop the Italian league.

Lazio fell behind on a goal by Salernitana's Ighli Vannucci in the 30th minute and could have fallen further behind had not one of its defenders, Paolo Negro, cleared a dangerous shot off the goal

meter free kick. Then, in the last eight minutes, Feyenoord's substitutes did the trick. Igor Korneev leveled with a drive through a crowd, and Ellery Cairo chased a long ball to roll in the winner.

Ajax Amsterdam climbed to third in the Dutch league Sunday by beating visiting Utrecht, 5-1. Benni McCarthy, the South African striker, scored three times for Ajax.

SPAIN FC Barcelona stretched its league lead to four points Sunday with a convincing 4-1 victory over Salamanca, while Real Madrid's Raul clinched a first league victory for the team's new coach, John Toshack, with a last-minute goal to down Zaragoza, 3-2.

The Portuguese winger Luis Figo hit Barcelona's first in the eighth minute. Then, the Spanish international Luis Enrique Martinez got the second in the 43d minute and the Dutch centerforward Patrick Kluivert made it 3-0 moments before the half-time whistle. The result left Barcelona with 47 points, four points ahead of No. 2 Valencia, which drubbed Athletic de Bilbao, 4-1.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

line. Then, two minutes before halftime, Negro scored to tie the game. Salas, Christian Vieri and Alessandro Nesta all scored in the second half as Lazio took control of the game.

Salas raised his season total to 13 goals, tied for fourth in the league, while Vieri's goal was his seventh in the 10 games he has played since returning from a knee injury. Nesta, a defender, registered his first career goal. The victory was Lazio's 12th in its last 13 games.

Fiorentina took over second place from Parma by winning its match, 2-1, on goals by Luis Oliveira and Rui Costa. AC Milan was in third place after beating 10-man Piacenza, 1-0. Oliver Bierhoff scored the goal with a floating header.

Inter Milan continued to struggle without Ronaldo. The Brazilian, still battling tendinitis in his knees, attended a beatification ceremony at the Vatican while his teammates lost, 1-0, to Bari. Inter has lost three of its last four league outings.

NETHERLANDS Feyenoord's march towards the Dutch title continued unabated after it came back from a 3-1 deficit Sunday to win a 4-3 thriller over De Graafschap Doetinchem. Feyenoord (17-4-1) lengthened its lead over second-place Vitesse Arnhem to 11 points with a game in hand.

Tomasz Rzsasa's centering pass helped Richard Roelofsen score De Graafschap's first goal, and Erik Redeker headed in its second for a surprising 2-0 lead. Feyenoord's captain, Jean-Paul van Gastel, restored order with a 15th-minute penalty after Sonny Silooy pulled down Bonaventure Kalou.

Rzsasa made it 3-1 in the 51st minute, but van Gastel brought Feyenoord back again with a 25-

meter free kick. Then, in the last eight minutes, Feyenoord's substitutes did the trick. Igor Korneev leveled with a drive through a crowd, and Ellery Cairo chased a long ball to roll in the winner.

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GERMANY Bayern Munich beat Freiburg, 2-0, on Saturday to extend its string of shutouts to six and to stretch its lead in the Bundesliga to 14 points.

Bayern rested five starters from its Champions Cup match Wednesday against Kaiserslautern and played an uninspired game against a Freiburg team that is winless in five outings.

But Bayern is winning even with mediocre performances. It got help in the 30th minute Saturday when Jörn Schwindendorf, a Freiburg defender, accidentally headed the ball into his own net.

Kaiserslautern, which is in second place, gained a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Hertha in Berlin.

FRANCE Paris-St. Germain grabbed desperately at the rule book Saturday to keep its disastrous season afloat. PSG, struggling in the league and eliminated from both the Cup Winners Cup and the French Cup, lost, 2-0, at home to Montpellier in a quarterfinal of the League Cup, a minor competition. But the team appealed the result of Saturday's game. PSG officials argued that their club should be awarded victory because, following an error by a linesman, Montpellier had an extra player on the field for a few seconds. (AP, Reuters, AFP)



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